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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATHS.

On January 15th, at Manchester, England, PERCY HOWARD TWIGGS, formerly of Shanghai, aged 46 years.

On January 16th, at Shanghai, DAVID CONKLIN (late Tidesurveyor of the Imperial Maritime Customs), aged 71 years.

On January 16th, at Kiel (Germany), C. WITTMUS, Lower Yangtze Pilot, of heart failure, aged 43 years.

On January 17th, at Shanghai, SOLOMAN DAVID HAYEM, of small-pox, aged 28 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English mail of 28th December arrived per the ss. *Devanha*, on Thursday, the 24th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Lyceum Theatre at Shanghai is to be repaired at a total cost of Tls. 6,034.

The chief of the Pootung native police has been arrested and sent to Nanking on a charge of conniving at the smuggling of arms at Shanghai.

The handsome edifice occupied by the Department of Communications in Tokyo has just been destroyed by fire. The loss to the Government is estimated at a million yen.

The Chinese Volunteers under foreign instructors made their first appearance on the Shanghai Bund last week.

His Majesty the King has been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 17 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance, 1900.

We are officially informed that, subject to audit, the directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of 12 per cent—\$6.00 per share, pass \$50,000 to special account and carry forward about \$393,000.

The principal officials and residents of Taipei, Formosa, meeting on the 8th instant, resolved to establish a museum at Taipei at a cost of Y300,000 in memory of the late General Kodama formerly Governor-General of Formosa, and Baron Goto, ex-Chief of the Civil Affairs Bureau in the Formosan Government.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Shanghai, informing them of the declaration of dividends in the undermentioned Companies:—Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., Tls. 3 and a bonus of Tls. 1½ per share. Lau Kung Mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd., Tls. 8 per share.

The Right Rev. Dr. Joseph Charles Hoare, D.D., Bishop of Victoria, Hongkong, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £3,694. By his will dated April 10th, 1891, the testator left the whole of his estate to his widow, Mrs. Ellen Tunnicliffe Hoare, of "enchleys, Limsfield, Surrey" and late of Bishop's Lodge, Hongkong, absolutely.

Shares are now on the market of the Japan Ham Curing Company, which is being floated in Tokyo. It is expected that the new concern will be able to pay a dividend from the first year, and when the company is in full working order, it is estimated that a dividend of 40 per cent will be available. The company's capital is fixed at Y1,000,000, in 20,000 shares, of which 5,000 are now on the market.

At Des Vœux Road, West near Eastern Street on January 19th a blind Chinaman was knocked over by tramcar No. 27, and had his face severely cut. The police removed him to the Civil Hospital, where a doctor proceeded to stitch a nasty gash on his forehead. This proved a difficult task, however, as the sufferer feared he was in the hand of robbers, and raised cries that they were trying to prick his eyes out and to rob him, the while struggling to free himself. Eventually he had to be strapped down, and then his wounds were dressed.

Messrs. G. Fenwick & Co., Ltd. launched from their new yard at North Point on January 18th one of two steel sternwheel steamers now building for service on the inland waterways of French Indo-China. The vessel is 145 feet long and 25 feet beam, and is being fitted with comfortable and commodious accommodation for all classes of passengers while freight can also be carried on the lower decks. A boiler of the locomotive type working under forced draft will supply steam to the propelling engines which are of the compound surface condensing type. The usual auxiliary machinery is also fitted.

Fifty years ago (this month, the Chinese servants in Hongkong were all deserting foreign employers in consequence of notices having been circulated among them that those who remained would be treated as traitors by the Chinese authorities. The relatives of loyal servants were got at, and molested. Things were so bad that it was seriously recommended that all women and children should go to live on board the ships then in harbour, until reinforcements should arrive.

It is proposed to create four squadrons with their respective Naval bases for the future Navy of the Chinese Empire, under the following designations:—(1) The Liaohai (Yellow Sea) squadron, with its Naval base at Chaoshan island in the Miaotao group. (2) Pohai (Gulf of Pechihli) squadron, with its Naval base at Yangohéng, in the Bay of that name, on the Shantung coast, near Weihaiwei. (3) Chéhai (Waters of the Chusan Archipelago) squadron, with Naval base at Hsiangshan island, in that group, and (4) Yüchhai (South China Sea) squadron, with Naval base at Pakhoi, island of Hainan.

Shortly after nine o'clock on January 20th fire broke out on the second floor of a roast meat shop at 101 Queen's Road West. The damage done was trifling, and the inmates extinguished the fire without the assistance of the brigade. The shop is insured with Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. for \$2,000. At about 2 a.m. next morning a second outbreak occurred in a piecegoods shop on the first floor of 72 Jervois Street and spread to the second floor. The brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker, were promptly on the scene and after about an hour's hard work quelled the fire. The damage done is not serious, the water causing more injury than the flames. The shop was insured for \$14,000 with Messrs. Meyerink & Co. \$7,000 with Messrs. Renter Brockmann & Co., and \$1,500 with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.

A SENSATIONAL ARREST AT SHANGHAI.

A telegram to the *Daily Press* dated Shanghai, January 21st, says:

In the United States' Court Mr. C. A. Biddle, general manager and secretary of the Hotel Metropole was sued for obtaining 6,000 taels on a false pretence from certain Chinese who rented the native grand stand wherein, at the last Races, the usual gambling was prohibited. Judgment was given in favour of the plaintiffs.

At the conclusion of the civil action the Judge ordered Mr. Biddle's arrest and the institution of criminal proceedings.

JAPANESE SQUADRON DAMAGED.

A telegram to the *Daily Press*, dated Tokyo, January 21st, says:

The training squadron which left Yokohama for Hawaii on the 15th inst. encountered extraordinarily violent storms. The ships got separated, and as coal and water supplies were becoming prematurely exhausted, the flagship returned, followed later by the others. Several of the vessels lost boats, and had numbers of their men injured.

A big tidal wave is reported from Chiba.

A BAD DECREE.

(Daily Press, 21st January.)

Europe is apparently captivated by the idea of reform in China, just as its sympathies went out to the Russian proletariat; and as it would listen to nothing that seemed to imply that the dynamitards were not wholly and absolutely in the right, so it turns a deaf ear to any suggestion that China is not in a fair way to reconstitution and reform. It regards every mention of reform in China with the complacency that certain missionaries show towards every convert, without troubling to look underneath the surface of things. For the immediate purpose of these comments, when we use the words China and Chinese we mean officialdom, or, as the Chairman of the local branch of the China Association happily dubbed it in his recent speech, "Mandarindom". At present, as it has for long been, China is Mandarindom; the ideal China of the reformers is either a body without a head, or a head without a body. It is admitted by the Ministry of Civil Appointments that there are in China to-day 257,400 men who have bought "titles" of expectancy, over a quarter of a million men who are waiting for official positions which they have paid for in advance, and for which, it may safely be assumed, most of them have no better claim. That the *Lipu*, as the Chinese call the Ministry mentioned, should have ordered a stop to be put to the sale of such privileges need not be taken as an indication of true reform. It is obvious that the number of expectant officials has grown embarrassingly large, and it speaks volumes for the methods of Mandarindom that men can still be found willing to part with their money on the chance of recouping themselves in the remote event of their finding a place. Were it possible for Mandarindom to at once reward all those 257,400 men with the "chances" they have paid for, it is not hard to picture for oneself what kind of business would immediately be set in train. There have been Imperial Decrees from time to time, some quite recently, which afforded excuse for the hope that this sort of thing was to be ended. It was not long since the EMPRESS-DOWAGER particularly commanded her high Ministers not to select any officials "according to routine," but to appoint such men as they knew to have special abilities for the particular posts concerned. A Chinese Imperial Decree is not, as has been suggested, so permanent as "the laws of the Medes and Persians," and, as we have frequently ventured to remind our readers, it is no guarantee of reform even when it strongly breathes reform. Another Imperial Decree, dated the 13th of this month, we reproduce elsewhere in this issue. It proves conclusively that China is still Mandarindom, or that Mandarindom is China.

The two officials therein reprimanded, TANG SHAO-YI and CHANG PO-HSI, are said to be the most progressive, independent, and enlightened members of Mandarindom. They represent in their persons and position the first honest step towards a much needed reform—the reform of Mandarindom. We have already said sufficient to show the one way in which that feature can be reformed; it must to be mended be ended. The system of dual and plural posts was being attacked by these two disciples of Viceroy YUAN SHIH-KAI. Sinecurists and incapables had already been dislodged, and in accordance with the hypocritical orders of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER, these two had evidently, as chiefs of the *Yuchwanpu*, or

Ministry of Posts and Communications, been selecting subordinates "out of turn", as men of sufficiently up-to-date attainments to do the work expected of them. No wonder Mandarindom grew alarmed, and redoubled its efforts on the backstairs at Peking. The EMPRESS-DOWAGER, so hypocritically indignant at the alleged nepotism of two of her best Ministers, is herself the most notorious nepotist of them all. The "sleepless nights" she boasts of may possibly have been caused by fears that the day of nepotism in China is drawing to a close. In any case, she has turned a credulous ear to the whispers of the Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, LIANG TING-FEN, a trusted old Tory, who distrusts all changes, and would willingly restore the status of a hundred years ago. At his suggestion, it is openly reported, the EMPRESS-DOWAGER has censured two better men whose only offence, so far as is known, has been to put her own precepts into practice. They appointed men who knew the difference between a twin screw steamer and a two-masted junk, who had learned that electricity and its effects are not equal to devils and devilry. Presumably these men will now be dismissed, and some of the 257,400 "expectant" contributors to Mandarindom's coffers be appointed in their places. In such case, it can be readily understood that China and reform are set further apart than ever. We suppose that if His Majesty the EMPEROR had the sole control of the Empire, unhampered by this meddlesome example of "woman's suffrage", such a Decree would not have been so lightly issued.

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

(Daily Press, 22nd January.)

Following up our remarks of yesterday, with reference to the reactionary Edict then quoted, we note that our contemporary the *North China Daily News*, in numbers received yesterday, entertains similar opinions as to the existing state of things in Chinese officialdom. Its well-informed writer of notes on native affairs declares that the reactionaries are "trying their best to neutralize the efforts of the progressive officials of Peking, by making unjustifiable complaints against them to the Throne". This writer refers to a letter from Peking which seems to have been inspired by a very intimate acquaintance with the backstairs at Peking. During the last fortnight, it states, denunciatory memorials have been quite numerous, mostly aimed at the veteran YUAN SHIH-KAI. As this eminent statesman is in his way a reminder of another great statesman LI HUNG-CHANG, and his character subject to the same variety of criticism, we shall examine with considerable interest the comments on his career which our contemporary makes editorially on the 17th inst. Meanwhile, however, it is worth while returning to the letter from Peking relating to denunciatory memorials. "The memorialists", we read, "are a number of Censors and Hanlins, including LIANG TING-FEN, Provincial Judge of Hupeh. After reading the memorials their Majesties merely smiled and ordered the papers to be pigeon-holed. This shows that the Viceroy's influence is still strong at Court, which is most cheering to friends of progress in this country." It may be cheering to those capable of gratitude for small mercies, but the fact that Majesty smiled, instead of frowning, and failed to destroy the memorials or to rebuke the memorialists, seems to us a cynical com-

mentary on the existing state of things in this unhappy Empire. Patently biased and malicious, these representations merely evoked a smile on the face of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER. We leave out of account, as Her Majesty often does, the EMPEROR himself. That smile, in our opinion, marked recognition of the condition of Mandarindom, and it did not mark disapproval thereof. Peking seems to be playing the same game with its more powerful constituents that it played with the Powers; it smiles while they rend each other. When policemen fall out, thieves come by their own. TANG SHAO-YI is said to have resigned since the Edict, so that even though at bottom the blow was aimed at YUAN SHIH-KAI, the coup is none-the-less a score to the reactionaries and conservatives.

Very little beyond the bare details of the career of Viceroy YUAN seems to be known to the general public. He has climbed his way to power through many subordinate positions, and it was not until the crisis at the end of the century that honours were thrust upon him. Our contemporary suggests that his star began to wane coincidentally with the discovery that his modern army had been largely over-rated.

"Up till that moment his position as the most powerful subject of the Throne had been considered secure so long as the Empress lived. Viceroy of the Metropolitan province, creator and supreme commander of the modern-drilled forces of the North, the Director of Northern Railways and Mines, he exercised a preponderating weight in the affairs of the Empire, and was able to post his trusted assistants in positions of power. His services to the Empress-Dowager at the time of the coup d'état of 1898 had made her success possible, and he was trusted, and possibly feared, as a strong and necessary accomplice in usually trusted and feared alternately. Such speculation as ran in regard to his future was chiefly concerned with the possibilities that would arise in the event of the death of the Empress-Dowager. The Emperor would hardly be likely to forgive his former friend and supporter, who had deserted him at the crucial moment. The return of H.M. Kwang Hsi to supreme power would mean therefore the obliteration of Viceroy YUAN. But behind YUAN stood his army and his powerfully-placed official adherents. There would probably be a struggle, of which the issue might be at least doubtful."

The manoeuvres perhaps meant to demonstrate his strength betrayed his weakness. Expert depreciation of his forces lessened Peking's fears. Such is the suggestion. The "man of power," as *Who's Who* calls him, has been compelled to resign offices, and to yield to one of his bitterest enemies the direction of Imperial army affairs. His friends and disciples, as appears in the Decree printed yesterday, suffer with him. Like LI HUNG-CHANG, he has his faults. He has had to be an astute politician to achieve what he has, and that means a good deal in China. But we are told that "with all his private ambitions, Viceroy YUAN has stood in the main for reform, for organization, and for development. His decline means the temporary success, at all events, of the advocates of reaction, headed by H.E. CHANG CHIH-TUNG," who presumably enters Majesty's favour as H.E. YUAN SHIH-KAI falls out. Evidently there can be no real reform while the DOWAGER-EMPRESS rules the EMPEROR and his Empire, for Mandarindom to be mended must be ended, and we now have it on record that she merely smiled at Mandarindom's methods. Whether in the future H.M. the EMPEROR does or does not forgive YUAN his backsliding in 1898, cannot greatly matter to the Empire, so long as he favours the principles for which YUAN now stands and for which he himself has suffered so severely at the hands of the Dowager.

ANOTHER "MODEL SETTLEMENT".

(Daily Press, January 23rd.)

The receipt of the annual report to the ratepayers of the Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council is apt to arouse mixed emotions in the mind that retains memories of that pretty island settlement. The thought occurs that in such an Arcadia as Drum Wave Island a municipal councillor is an anomaly, and a rate-collector an outrage. Where every prospect pleases, man should not be troubled with vile references to concrete drains or municipal debentures. To the sentimentalist with an eye for the beautiful and a proper appreciation of Nature, it all seems as improper as a pack of cards would seem in Paradise. The product of modern European civilization, however, has complex tastes, and just as the untutored Indian would shrink from setting forth to the Happy Hunting Grounds without his earthly weapons, so the foreigner, preparing to settle down in an earthly paradise like Kulangsu, looks round for a race course site, and makes a memorandum to the effect that he must order a ballot box first thing. Probably, if the naked truth were to be extorted, there is a sweetness even of nature that cloy and palls. Robinson Crusoe on his island was by way of being a philosopher, yet he had to adopt many most barefaced expedients for killing time. The suspicion grows that it is invariably to the theorist in the thick of city life that Arcadia most strongly appeals, to the wrestler in civilization's crowded arena, the wanderer in the maze and labyrinth of "pidjin", that the ideal of the "Simple Life" appears in most attractive shape. In short, it is the old human weakness of discontent; and just as the city man longs for the country, so apparently the Crusoes of Drum Wave Island have longed for the petty pomp and ceremonies of a municipal council, and have provided themselves therewith. Doubtless in time, should circumstances permit, they will have a chained Mayor, a Carnegie library, a progressive and a conservative party, with two newspapers to champion these, and elections full of fervour. Already, as our news columns have indicated since we began to publish the Minutes of Council, they have regulations for the control of motor vehicles. The tenour of the foregoing remarks suggests that we have not so far received a sufficient number of these annual reports from Amoy to regard them as commonplace, which is the fact. Taking the last one with more gravity and seriousness, we may observe that it shows the little community to be well-served; and that Kulangsu may be said to deserve, even more appropriately than Shanghai, the title of "Model Settlement," for it is model in the dual sense of worth and of size. The Council is as harmonious as it is international, and includes three committees, Watch, Works, and Finance. During the year nearly three thousand feet of drainage was added to the system, and five public lamps were added to the fifty-six already erected. There is a public tennis ground, well cared for, plenty of servicable stone jetties for the use of residents crossing the river from business, and really excellent roads, which entail considerable expense owing to the boisterous behaviour of the tides there. A thirteen-foot-high sea wall had to be erected in one place. Twenty thousand dollars' worth of seven per cent debentures were issued last year, chiefly to buy land and erect municipal offices, police barracks, and gaol. The Health Officer reports the conditions there to have been remarkably good, even among

the natives; there were only three deaths among foreign residents, one being a Japanese infant. The native death rate has been largely decreased. Bakeries, dairies, butcheries, and so on are subjected to careful supervision. In the Police report there is a note of despair over the successful cunning of native thieves, mainly bad servants apparently, and there was actually a foreign vagrant arrested during the year. Native prisoners break stones and mend roads, and their cost to the community is only six cents each a day. Seventeen persons, presumably natives, were summoned for nonpayment of municipal taxes, showing that there is a leaven of Arcadians who fail to appreciate the blessings of civilization. It is not as if taxation were burdensome; the total revenue for 1907 is estimated at only twenty-two thousand dollars, and that sum includes revenue from various contracts, fines, rents, and so on. Five thousand of it is spent on police, for the maintenance of order and safety, and the bulk of the remainder goes for the comforts before mentioned. There are worse places than Kulangsu to live in—it may be called the Jersey of the China Coast.

HONGKONG'S STATUES.

(Daily Press, 24th January.)

We do not know whether any name has been chosen for that open space which lies between the Club and Queen's Buildings and reaches back from the waterfront to Des Vœux Road, but "Royal Square" at once suggests itself as a name which will be singularly appropriate to the locality when the array of statues designed to be placed there are all in position. Hongkong will soon have a collection of statues such as few cities in the Empire can boast of possessing. This year in all probability will see the Colony in possession of seven life-size statues in bronze, five being of members of the Royal Family, viz: the late Queen VICTORIA, King EDWARD VII, Queen ALEXANDRA, the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT and the PRINCE OF WALES. The first statue erected in the Colony was that of Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY, which occupies a conspicuous position in the Public Gardens. Sir ARTHUR, who was Governor of the Colony from 1872 to 1876, was affectionately remembered as "The Good Sir ARTHUR." The statue was erected by public subscription after his death which occurred at sea when he was returning home in ill-health from Queensland, whither he had been promoted from Hongkong. The statue was modelled by Signor RAGGI, and unveiled by Governor Sir G. W. DES VŒUX in November, 1887. Nine years later, on May 28th, 1896, the statue of Queen VICTORIA, erected to commemorate the jubilee of her late Majesty's reign, was unveiled by Governor Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON. On July 5th, 1902, Major-General Sir WILLIAM GASCOIGNE, who was then administering the Government, unveiled a statue of the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT presented to the Colony by Sir PAUL CHATER, to commemorate the visit paid to the Colony by His Royal Highness in April, 1890, when the Duke laid the foundation stone of the Reclamation Works just then commencing. It was when unveiling this statue that the announcement was made that two other statues were unknown to the general public, actually at the time being made for presentation to the Colony, and these two H.R.H. the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT will unveil on the 6th of February next—one the statue of the KING, the other the statue of the PRINCE OF WALES.

"The statue of the PRINCE OF WALES", said Sir WILLIAM GASCOIGNE, in making the announcement, "is the gift of Mr. BELL-IRVING. Mr. BELL-IRVING is well known to you all here in Hongkong. He was a grand sportsman and a perfect gentleman, and though he has left the Colony, I believe for good, yet one may say he has left his mark behind him. Though somewhat retiring in disposition, he possessed a common-sense and a judgment such as are shared by few men. I think it is a remarkably handsome gift from a man who has terminated his position in the Colony, to leave this lasting memento of himself in this handsome gift to the Colony, and I am sure you will all so regard it. The statue of the KING is the gift again—another gift—of Sir PAUL CHATER. Sir PAUL CHATER is perhaps the best known man in Hongkong; he has been prominent in all great public works which have made Hongkong what it is. He has made Hongkong his home and he has often said to me, 'What benefits Hongkong, benefits me.' It is men like him who make the places where they elect to dwell, and I am quite certain that you, one and all, will recognise the munificence of his second gift. Both of these gentlemen, with a diffidence which did them credit, refused to allow me to make public this matter until they had left the Colony." Both statues have been modelled by Mr. GEORGE WADE, who had the honour to be selected by both the KING and the PRINCE. Mr. WADE was also chosen to model the effigy of H.M. QUEEN ALEXANDRA for the statue which will constitute the public memorial of the Coronation. The statues of the KING and QUEEN and PRINCE OF WALES will be grouped around the statue of Queen VICTORIA. There remains to be mentioned the statue of Sir THOMAS JACKSON, modelled by Signor RAGGI, which was unveiled last year. All are within the area which, for lack of an official designation, we have named "Royal Square," or "Royal Statue Square," and in this connection it will not be inopportune to recall a public announcement in regard to this locality made by Sir HENRY BLAKE just before the expiry of his term as Governor of the Colony. The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART, speaking in the Legislative Council Chamber, remarked that whenever he passed the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT's statue, he had an inclination to apologise to it for the site which had been assigned to it—"a sort of wilderness" east of the garden plots in front of the Bank. Sir HENRY BLAKE thereupon expressed a hope that the ground in the vicinity of the statue would never be built on, and added that he wished to see the site converted into a public garden forming with the garden plots opposite an open space which would be preserved as such for ever. It is sincerely to be hoped that this idea is still cherished by the Government and that the transformation of the "wilderness" is only delayed until the new Law Court buildings are nearer completion.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, January 25th.)

Notwithstanding that the point has often been emphasized that Japan and the Japanese continue to get their full share of Chinese "anti-foreign" prejudice, there are still people who cannot get rid of the idea that, Japan having defeated a "white" army, all Asiatic races must at once feel drawn together and conspire for further exploits against Europeans. The Chinese, for instance, in the view of these people, were

to be so overcome with admiration of Japan's prowess as to throw in their lot with Japan, virtually saying "Take us and rule us and teach us how to fight the foreigner". Loose assumptions as to the germaneship of all Orientals have been responsible for the delusion that there is little difference between the Chinese and Japanese, and for still worse errors. It has been often and openly suggested, by certain foreigners who feel shocked by the spectacle of a "barbarous" nation entering the rank of first-class Powers, that China's more recent attitude of independence towards foreigners has been directly inspired from Japan. This quite ignores the fact that in the eyes of the Chinese the Japanese are as foreign as any other people, and perhaps more heartily disliked and distrusted than any other aliens are. That this is the case, a number of incidents catalogued by Capt. BRINKLEY in the *Times* go far, as intended, to demonstrate. So far from recognizing Japan as a benefactor or friend, China has for the last year been industriously keeping her at arm's length, along with the rest of the Powers with whom China, to her own disgust, finds it necessary to negotiate. Over the business of the restoration of Newchwang, this spirit was particularly noticeable. In addition to the necessary retention of military control for a time, Japan requested China to promise to continue and maintain the sanitary reforms that it had instituted there. This was not a gratuitous lecture, but a reasonable stipulation. Japan has to keep a force of railway guards in South Manchuria, and the leased area of Liaotung is in close railway touch with Newchwang. It is therefore to the interest of both that Newchwang should not be "a centre of disease-propagation." China agreed very unwillingly, on terms over which she haggled. Capt. BRINKLEY remarks:

"It is evidently possible to find explanations of China's reluctance in this matter, but another objection raised by her may almost be described as frivolous. It referred to the term 'Kwan-tung' and to the title 'Viceroy.' When Russia appointed Alexeieff to be 'Viceroy' of 'Kwan-tung,' no protest of any kind was made by China, but when Japan, having succeeded by treaty to Russia's leasehold, nominated General Oshima to the same post in the same territory, Peking declared that the leased territory could not properly be termed 'Kwan-tung,' since that name applied to the whole of South Manchuria eastward of Shan-hai-kwan, and that, at any rate, the creation of a Japanese 'Viceroy' constituted an encroachment on China's sovereign rights. This very marked differentiation between Peking's complaisant mood towards Russia and its cavilling disposition towards Japan caused surprise in Tokyo, but the Japanese, being much too practical to set greater store by a question of mere terminology than by international concord, changed the title of 'Viceroy' (*totoku*) to that of 'Governor-General' (*totoku*), and thus saved China's 'face.' The alteration of one ideograph did the business. Then the Waiwu-pu began to talk of jurisdiction. It alleged that the Russo-Chinese Convention, under which Japan held Kwan-tung, had expressly reserved to the Chinese local authorities powers of administration in the town of Kinchau as well as judicial rights in the case of Chinese subjects in Kwan-tung, and it insisted that Japan must abide by these reservations. But the Japanese retorted that Russia had never respected this convention in practice; that she had notoriously exercised the functions in question, and that China had refrained from raising any objection. One can understand and even sympathize with this essay on China's part to retrieve a situation which her own perfunctoriness or timidity had compromised in the days anterior to her recently-born mood of self-assertion. The Japanese, however, are not disposed to increase their list of sacrifices in Manchuria for the sake of gratifying Peking's new aspirations.

The Chinese further made some extraordinary protests with regard to telegraphs, and had the silliness and effrontery to demand that the cable with which Saseho and Dalny were linked during the war should be taken up again. Their protests were not confined to Tokyo, they had them submitted to the International Posts and Telegraphs Union in Switzerland. There was, of course, no opening for any Power whatever, including China, to object to the retention and continued use of that cable, seeing that both ends of it were purely Japanese, Saseho being Japanese and Dalny on Japanese leased territory. The frivolous protests concerning the telegraphs laid along the East China railway were undreamed of in Russia's time, and were obviously dragged up to show Japan that her efforts were not appreciated and her intentions mistrusted. Another difficulty raised by Peking related to navigation between Chefoo and the Yalu ports, Antung and Tungkiao. China claimed that steamers plying between these places must not call at Dalny, thus attempting to differentiate the latter from other Japanese ports. Then the Chinese hang back from their undertaking to co-operate with the Japanese in exploiting the Yalu timber forests; and they stood aloof from the offered partnership in the South Manchuria railway. Japanese influence at Peking, supposed by so many to be greater than that of other Powers, would seem to be really as small as any.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on January 22nd at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, Dr. H. McFarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

The PRESIDENT—Before I go on to the public business, there is a matter that I think immediately concerns the Board and also the public, and that is the way in which the work of the new scavenging contractor is being carried out. There have been complaints from several parts of the Colony—many parts I might say—and Dr. Clark has interviewed the contractor on more than one occasion. I have myself seen him and explained that this sort of thing cannot be allowed to go on; he has undertaken the work and must carry it out satisfactorily. Personally, last week, I made a complaint about the way the work was carried out at the Victoria Hospital and along Barker Road. I also saw opposite the Western Market on Thursday last at 1.10 p.m. numerous baskets of rubbish which had not been removed, which practically means that the man is not doing his work satisfactorily. The Medical Officer of Health made a minute as follows: "The new scavenging contractor is not doing his work in a satisfactory manner, and I recommend that he be brought before the Board." The man cannot be allowed to retain his contract under such circumstances, and it is for the Board to make representations to the Government. I propose to bring the contractor before you, and if you wish to ask him any questions you can do so.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—What is his name?

The PRESIDENT—Ng Kwan.

The contractor was then called before the Board, and the PRESIDENT, through an interpreter, said—I have asked you to attend before the Board as it has come to my knowledge that you have not been doing your work as scavenging contractor satisfactorily. (To members)—I may say that when I had him before me I asked him with reference to the number of coolies he was supposed to supply, but he did not seem to be acquainted with the exact number he ought to furnish. It is his duty to make himself acquainted with the contract.

Mr. HOOPER (to contractor)—Do you admit that the president of the Sanitary Board has warned and cautioned you for doing your work improperly?

The PRESIDENT—He admits it.

Mr. HOOPER—But I think it had better come from him. I don't doubt you.

The CONTRACTOR—Yes. I was warned yesterday.

Mr. HOOPER—What reason do you give for not carrying out your contract properly?

The CONTRACTOR—I am a new hand.

Mr. HOOPER—Do you give personal supervision to the work?

The CONTRACTOR—I have got a lot of foremen.

Mr. HOOPER—I think that in addition to the foremen it would be well if you gave a little supervision yourself, and see that the work is properly carried out.

The CONTRACTOR—Yes, I must look after the foremen.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—Whose duty is it, Mr. President, to put the rubbish on board the boats?

The PRESIDENT—That is a separate contract. This man puts it in receptacles provided on the Praya for the purpose, and another contractor removes it.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK (to the contractor)—In what condition did you find the Peak district when you took over the contract?

The CONTRACTOR—I found a lot of rubbish left behind by the old contractor.

The PRESIDENT—Bye-law 13 states that the contractor shall remove the rubbish from the Peak daily before 9 a.m., and that he must have thirty able-bodied men on the work. Have you had thirty men on since you have taken over the contract?

The CONTRACTOR—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—I told you yesterday that last week I saw at 11 o'clock in the morning bundles and baskets of rubbish along the Barker Road.

The CONTRACTOR—Perhaps the scavengers couldn't carry it away so quickly.

The PRESIDENT—You are supposed to do it before 9 a.m. according to your contract?

The CONTRACTOR—Yes.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—When did you sign your contract?

The CONTRACTOR—On December 28th.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—And when did you take up the work?

The CONTRACTOR—On January 1st.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—And you had to make all arrangements in those four days about engaging coolies?

The CONTRACTOR—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—I think it would be sufficient if we warned him.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I think it is my duty to bring to your notice what I heard to day, Mr. President. I heard direct from one of the Sanitary inspectors, who is no longer an inspector now, that one of the clerks in my office was suspected of having a share in this contract.

The PRESIDENT—I don't know quite what that means. I would prefer you to explain yourself a little further.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—None of the clerks in my office are interested in this contract. The inspectors think that one of them is interested, and they don't like the clerk to have anything to do with the contract. As a matter of fact, none of my clerks have.

The PRESIDENT—I have never heard of any suspicion of the kind.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—It was told me by one of the inspectors.

The PRESIDENT—Who is not an inspector now?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—But he goes about among the inspectors and knows what is going on.

The PRESIDENT—I don't know what that has to do with the contractor now. He is a new man and will take some time to get into the work, but I think it only wise to warn him that if it is not properly carried on in future we shall have to represent the matter to the Government.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—It is quite proper to warn him.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I think, Sir, the Board would be satisfied if you were to inquire into the

statements made by Mr. Lau Chu-pak and see if there is any truth in them or not.

The PRESIDENT—If he will give them to me in writing I will.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—It is the duty of the President to inquire into the matter, and several cases of the kind came before the Commission. It is very serious.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I think the Commission have fuller powers than you, Sir, to inquire into it.

Mr. HOOPER—They have greater power and will do it more fully, but the Governor is anxious that the Commission should soon end. My only reason for not wishing to refer it to that body is that it prolongs its sittings. Members agreed that the matter should be referred to the Commission.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. HUMPHREYS, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

(1) Has the Medical Officer of Health ever found that certain Chinese houses which are perfectly sanitary in every respect come within the scope of Section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903?

(2) Has the Medical Officer of Health ever found that Chinese houses that do come within the scope of Section 175 would not be rendered more sanitary by an enforcement of its provisions?

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH replied:—

(1) The Medical Officer of Health does not regard any domestic building as "perfectly sanitary in every respect" which is not provided with an open space, exclusively belonging to such house, in which domestic refuse can be placed pending its removal from the premises, and in which a latrine can be constructed for the use of the inmates of such building.

(2) The Medical Officer of Health is not prepared to state that any Chinese house would not be rendered more sanitary by the enforcement of the provisions of Section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I consider the answers of the Medical Officer of Health rather evasive, and that being so I have to give notice of two further questions to come up before the next Board meeting. The first is:—"Has the Medical Officer of Health ever recommended any Chinese houses for total exemption under section 175 of the Ordinance? If so, why does he now state that he has never found the Chinese houses would not be rendered more sanitary by the enforcing of these provisions?" I take it that is the purport of his answer. Secondly, "Has the Governor-in-Council ever granted Chinese houses total exemption from the Ordinance under section 175 on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health?"

COLONIAL CEMETERY BY-LAWS.

The report of the select committee on these bye-laws was again laid before members.

The PRESIDENT—This report came before the Board at last meeting, but it was circulated again as it had not been circulated entirely round the members. That is the reason why it is brought up again now.

Mr. HOOPER—I beg to move the adoption of the report, and, in doing so, as I was on the committee, I consider it would be well for me to enlarge on the bald facts stated in our recommendations. The fees which are chargeable to-day were formulated some years ago when different circumstances existed. In olden days the military were allowed certain privileges apart from the cemetery, and one of those particularly was the exemption from all rates in this Colony, which existed up to the time of 1886 or 1888. But by order of the Secretary of State all exemptions ceased, and the military are now called upon to pay all the taxes which are chargeable upon the civil community. I think that is a very good precedent when we come to revise the scale of charges for interments and other things in connection with the cemetery, for carrying out the same principle, and that is making us all equal with regard to the amount we have to give for any privileges or whatever else they may be designated, while in this colony. There is one point I wish to emphasise. I don't know that it is quite bearing on the subject, but we had to mention it in the report; that is, that no portion of the Protestant cemetery is consecrated. We found that very many Protestants

of high standing in this Colony were totally ignorant of the fact, but the same thing may be remedied, and I take this opportunity of calling attention to it. Another thing is that a certain portion of the cemetery is set apart for the burial of old residents, a proceeding of which I very much approve, and if hard and fast lines were adopted I should have nothing more to say. But I find it was at the discretion originally of the Director of Public Works, then it was transferred from him to the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Board, the former being the officer in whose discretion it then was to say who, not being an old resident, might be buried there. I have known offence to be caused by some of the selections made and the refusals. I find that in some cases subordinate officers who have died have been buried in the old residents' quarters, while the relatives of those with a better claim have been refused. If the fees are brought up to the same standard as suggested in the report, I see no argument against it, and with these few remarks I beg to move the adoption of the report.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded, and the motion was carried.

AN AMBIGUOUS SECTION.

Mr. HUMPHREYS moved that certain items on the agenda concerning section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance be deferred till next meeting in order that he might receive a concise answer from the Medical Officer of Health to the two questions he submitted to the Board, and also that the present Attorney-General be asked for his opinion as to what section 175 meant. Of course all knew that solicitors and barristers had to interpret the law, but if all interpreted it alike there would be no such thing as litigation in this world. In actual practice they nearly always differed, and although the Attorney-General who gave the opinion about section 175 was a very clever man, still he was only acting, and the speaker thought that the Sanitary Board might see what the present holder of the office thought about the section. Of course the section pressed very hardly on all sorts of people in Hongkong. It had cost the landlords here millions of money, and if not modified it would cost them tens of millions yet, but it would react on the Government. One of the duties of the Sanitary Board was to see the sanitary laws of the Colony carried out in a proper manner. In this particular section, when it was drafted into the Bill Ordinance, the words "by the owner" were added to sub-section 1, which practically altered the whole meaning of that subsection; yet the Attorney-General, when he introduced it into the Legislative Council said that no substantial alteration was made, and the Ordinance was practically a consolidating Ordinance and nothing less. Taking such opinion into consideration Mr. Humphreys asked that the items he mentioned should be allowed to stand over.

The PRESIDENT—I am opposed to that, as we are informed by the Law Officer of the Crown the Sanitary Board can grant modifications.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Then I will withdraw those items referring only to modifications and apply my motion to those for exemption.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH stated that since the last meeting of the Board he had been in consultation with the Crown Solicitor regarding other cases under the same section which had come before him, and would like to consult him with regard to the present cases.

The papers were referred to the Medical Officer.

THE OPEN SPACE QUESTION.

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH at Kowloon furnished a minute relative to enforcing Section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance in respect of certain houses in Main Street, Station Street and Praya West, Fuk Tsuen Heung. He stated therein that the houses mentioned had no open space as required by section 175. They were situated at Fuk Tsuen Heung which adjoins Sham Shui Po, being separated from Sham Shui Po only by the imaginary line which divides Old Kowloon from New Kowloon. They were therefore in the extreme western corner of Old Kowloon, and so far had been regarded as too far out to have the whole Ordinance applied

to them. New houses, however, were beginning to go up in this quarter and there was a prospect of a road being made. He therefore recommended that the attached notices be served so that the owners could either obtain modification or provide open spaces in the usual way.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted—These houses have ample open space both in front and at the rear, quite in accordance with the spirit of the law. They should be left alone.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—There does not appear to be any recommendation on these papers.

Consideration of the matter was deferred.

ANOTHER CONTAMINATED WELL.

Samples of water from a well in the garden of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.'s house at East Point were forwarded to the Government Bacteriologist and Analyst for report. The former reported that the water was non-potable as the sample he examined contained approximately 2,000 colonies of micro-organisms multiplying at room-temperature, and 1,500 multiplying at 37deg. C. In addition to water bacteria the sample contained liquefying bacilli, fluorescent bacilli, and streptococci. Colon bacilli were found present in 1.100 of a c.c. of the sample. The Analyst reported that some impurity was present in the sample examined by him. Probably the well wanted cleaning out. The water should be boiled before use. Another sample might be examined after the rain.

Mr. HOOPER—What is this well water used for, potable purposes or only for gardening?

The PRESIDENT—There is nothing to show that.

Mr. HOOPER—The report says it is in the garden of a private residence.

The PRESIDENT—Dr. Clark states that it is used for potable purposes by the gardener.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—This matter was raised by Dr. Pearce two months ago, and he pointed out that the surroundings of the well were very unsatisfactory, and that repairs were wanted round it. The Secretary has been in correspondence with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. but nothing has been done; that was before we knew what the water was like. All that is asked for now is that the surroundings of the well should be put in proper order. The object of getting the analysis was to strengthen our hand to get the work done.

Mr. HOOPER—I move that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. be asked to do the work required. I recommend that instead of the usual legal notice they be written to by the Board and informed of the result of the analysis, and I am sure for their own good they will do all they can.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE HOLLYWOOD ROAD WELL.

The reports of the Government Analyst and Bacteriologist regarding their examinations of samples from this well were laid before members.

The PRESIDENT—The report from the Government Bacteriologist is a pretty bad one, and it is for members to say what they think on the matter. The report from the Analyst is practically that he thinks this water is good enough to drink, but I must say that personally I shouldn't care to drink it. If you remember the well is situated in a kitchen, which is not a very nice spot, and it is very liable to contamination. The inspector reports that it is not properly cemented, and any contamination on the floor of the kitchen may get into the well and contaminate the water.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I move that it is made to appear to the Board that the well is likely to prove injurious to health. Apart from the analysis the fact of the well being in a kitchen of that kind and in close proximity to a privy is bound to be a likely injury to health, and it is expedient that it should be closed and filled up.

The PRESIDENT seconded the motion, but as the unofficial majority voted against, it was lost.

Messrs. Butterfield and Swires' new dock at Quarry Bay, one of the largest in the East, is nearing completion, and is expected to be open in June next.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, January 19th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

TRADE MARK DISPUTE.

Judgment was delivered by their Lordships in the appeal by Messrs. Ullmann and Company against the judgment by the Chief Justice awarding an injunction in favour of Messrs. Leuba Frères against the appellants, restraining them from selling or offering for sale "Po Wai" and "Ena" watches not of the manufacture of Messrs. C and C. Leuba. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, represented appellants, while Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for the respondents.

The Puisne Judge (Mr. A. G. Wise) delivered his judgment first, remarking at the outset that he differed from the Chief Justice. Then he dealt with the arguments advanced in the hearing of the case and the evidence given and stated, with regard to the "Ena" mark, that the plaintiff should have been non-suited in the Court below, that the further evidence should not have been admitted on the appeal and that it did not entitle the respondents to succeed. If the "Ena" case failed then the "Po Wai" case failed also, and he thought that the appeal should be upheld. The action of Messrs. Ullmann and Company in openly exhibiting the watches for sale and in advertising them did not indicate any secrecy in their transactions, and Bovey made no objections after 1893. In conclusion the Puisne Judge expressed the opinion that the injunction should fail as the respondent had not shown any title in the Colony on which to sue.

The Chief Justice followed with a lengthy judgment. He reviewed the proceedings in the lower Court which were apparently based on the assumption that the assignment was a valid one. On it being challenged the respondent applied for leave to adduce further evidence to prove it. This was granted, the Puisne Judge dissenting, and the assignments were produced. The assignment of the business connected with the Swiss mark in 1901 was made and it included the business which had been created in London; the marks had been registered in London and were transferred to Leuba, which had the effect of transferring the Hongkong trade to him. The appellants argued the assignment showed that Mrs. Bovey was the assignee of the good-will, and not Leuba, but that did not meet with the Chief Justice's approval. His Lordship held that Registration in Hongkong conferred upon the person registering the exclusive use of the mark, but that the mark did not become absolute, being always open to disapproval. His Lordship dealt with the local Ordinance and the English law on the subject and pointed out that two or more persons could hold the exclusive use of a mark—by registration or Common law. Both marks in the present case were old marks; and Bovey would have been registered despite the fact that the other party in Switzerland was on the register—Leuba was entitled to Common law rights. In conclusion His Lordship held that Bovey's title was sound and dismissed the appeal with costs.

Monday, January 21st.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT.)

ASSAULT.

Chun Kun was arraigned on charges of assaulting Wong Pak, Lu Pui, Ho Mu, and Lai Chut on the 29th November.

The Attorney-General (Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts) prosecuted. He stated that defendant's junk and a water boat collided in the harbour on the day in question and foul language was exchanged. The accused landed on the Praya and attacked the water boat men with a knife. After stabbing the four men defendant went to the Police Station and gave himself up and complained of having been assaulted. The

police went to the scene of the assault and had the injured men taken to the hospital. The Attorney-General pointed out that the accused had been in the lunatic asylum but had been released into the custody of his friends at Canton. He escaped on the way up and had since been in charge of the junk. Since his arrest he had been under medical examination, and the medical officer was prepared to certify that he was sane.

Accused pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT.)

RECEIVING ORDER GRANTED.

Re the Tong Tai firm, 192 Wing Lok Street, *ex parte* Lo King Chuen.

Mr. C. F. Dixon from the office of Mr. John Hastings made application on behalf of the petitioning creditor for a receiving order. An interim receiving order had already been granted. The assets amounted to \$9,000.

The Chief Justice—What are the liabilities?

Mr. Dixon—I don't know, my Lord.

The Chief Justice—I must have some idea of what the liabilities are.

Mr. Dixon—Perhaps the petitioning creditor knows.

The Chief Justice—Very well, I will hear him.

Lo King Chuen, the petitioning creditor, said he had had a conversation with the manager of the Tong Tai firm with reference to the amount of the assets and the liabilities. The liabilities amounted to \$20,000.

The receiving order was granted.

THE CHUNG SHUN KOO BANKRUPTCY.

Another stage in the lengthy proceedings associated with the Chung Shun Koo bankruptcy was reached when Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. F. C. Master and Mr. d'Almada e Castro, asked for an order against Mr. Ho Tung for payment of all costs occasioned by his failure to prove property in this bankruptcy—by his proving for more than he was entitled. He proved for the amount of his debt whereas in fact he had received in satisfaction of a portion of it property which he had taken in execution.

The Chief Justice—I have decided all the questions of costs.

Mr. Slade—The costs were nearly all occasioned by his defect.

The Chief Justice—Some orders have been made or indicated.

Mr. Looker—None have been made.

The Chief Justice—I think I had better get all the questions tabulated.

Mr. Slade enumerated the grounds on which he based his application. The first was the motion in October for an order for the trustee to call a meeting; a scheme of composition was put forward at that meeting. The second ground was that rent had been paid unnecessarily to keep the furniture in debtor's house instead of storing it in a godown. The third was the order to set aside a motion giving leave to amend, and the next was an application by Mr. Ho Tung to expunge a motion. Counsel submitted that if Ho Tung had done as he ought to have done none of those costs would have been incurred.

The Chief Justice—You submit that Ho Tung should pay all costs?

Mr. Slade—Yes, the whole of the costs of the bankruptcy with a few trifling exceptions. The position is this: Ho Tung at the date of the bankruptcy did not exercise his right as owner by virtue of the prohibitory order filed with regard to certain property which was apparently the property of the bankrupt. He permitted the Official Receiver to take possession of this property and the Official Receiver and the trustee, and indeed all the creditors, believed that this property valued about \$20,000 would be applied in satisfaction of the debts of the bankrupt. Ho Tung not only did not claim his rights but he proved for the whole amount of his debt without giving credit for the property he received in satisfaction and by means of that excessive proof defeats the scheme of composition proposed at the first meeting of creditors. If Ho Tung had proved the property that scheme would have been

carried and the subsequent bankruptcy proceedings would never have taken place. If the \$20,000 was admitted the balance left would be very small indeed and the probability is that the whole estate would have been wound up and no expense would have been incurred.

Mr. H. W. Looker, who appeared on behalf of Mr. Ho Tung, pointed out that his Lordship had no jurisdiction to order Mr. Ho Tung to pay costs except on a motion to which he was a party. He sketched the history of the proceedings and afterwards argued that the blame for that scheme of composition being rejected did not rest with Mr. Ho Tung but with the creditors who did not go to the Land Office and earn that a prohibitory order had been filed.

Mr. Slade added that the scheme must be proceeded with and if necessary he would ask that the trustees should pay the costs. His clients did not wish to create unnecessary trouble nor did he wish to go on with the second part of his motion which was a serious complaint against the administration of the estate—that money had been squandered in keeping the furniture in the house in question.

After further discussion, the Chief Justice reserved his decision.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT.)

CARDBOARD ILLUSTRATIONS.

The action by Lau Siu Wan, a furniture dealer of Des Vœux Road, against the North German Fire Insurance Company, in which the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade represented the defendants, was mentioned.

The Chief Justice remarked that both Mr. Hough and Mr. Lammert had prepared a diagram showing how much of the second and third floors of the building were gone. He thought the simplest plan would be to represent each floor by a piece of cardboard and let them show how much in their opinion had disappeared. Counsel agreed.

The hearing of the action, in which Lau Siu Wan proceeded against the North German Fire Insurance Co. to recover \$50,000 on an insurance policy, concluded before the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court on Jan. 23rd. The jury's finding was for the plaintiff, and judgment was entered for the amount claimed and costs.

Thursday, January 24th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MAN SHUN WO V. B. I. S. N. CO.

This was an action by the Man Shun Wo, merchants carrying on business at 227 Des Vœux Road West, against Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, the local agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the recovery of \$1,863, said to have been lost on a certain shipment of birds' nests. The circumstances of the case were rather singular. Six cases of birds' nests were supposed to have been shipped from Singapore by the B.I. Puttala and consigned to the plaintiffs. When the cases arrived in Hongkong two were found to contain peanuts, which, plaintiffs alleged, meant a loss to them of the amount claimed. On the other hand the defendants did not admit that the cases contained birds' nests at the time of shipment, and contended that the cases were re-shipped goods, which originally came from Batavia. One of the conditions of the bill of lading was that the weight, contents, and value of the cases were unknown when shipped. The defendants were not to be responsible for the condition of re-shipped or re-exported goods. Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) represented the plaintiffs; and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. G. Hastings, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings), appeared for defendants.

After the opening statement of counsel, the evidence taken on commission at Singapore was read and Chinese witnesses called on behalf of the plaintiff.

The godown keeper stated that he hesitated to accept delivery of the cases because when he moved them peanuts fell out. He went to the mate of the steamer and spoke to him in "simple English."

Mr. Slade—What did you say?

Witness—I said—"You belong chief officer?" He said—Yes. I said—This (bill of lading) say bird nesters. Case broke. Belong peanuts. How can?" The mate reported it to the captain who promised to acquaint Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company with the facts. Next day after examination, he took delivery of four boxes.

Mr. Pollock, in opening for the defence, said he thought there was nothing for the defendants to answer. He thought his Lordship would have noticed certain peculiarities in the evidence before the Court, and he would refer to three or four. In the first place there was the policy of insurance from Batavia to Singapore. It was important to bear in mind that that policy was put in by the plaintiffs' witness from the custody of the plaintiff, and opposite the entry of those two boxes were the Chinese characters "This box has been stolen." That must have been written by somebody in the employ of the shop at Singapore or by the insurance people, and was a fair matter of inference. The whole theory put forward by the plaintiffs was that the boxes remained intact from Batavia until they were put on the *Putiala* when at some hypothetical moment they were opened by some person and the birds' nests abstracted and peanuts put in.

The Chief Justice remarked on the difference between re-shipping and re-exporting and said there was no evidence of a through bill of lading.

Mr. Pollock suggested there was a distinction between the two terms. They were not used where one word would do. Supposing a ship came in here from Bangkok with goods for Japan, the goods would not be landed but reshipped on another steamer for Japan.

The Chief Justice—The terms are well known in customs law. That means that no duty has been levied except the port charges.

Mr. Pollock—Is your Lordship referring to reshipment or re-export?

The Chief Justice—Re-export.

Mr. Pollock—It brings us back to the same observation. Reshipment means taken out of one ship and put on another.

The Chief Justice—I am not sure. Transshipment is the common term.

Mr. Pollock—It must mean that the goods—I don't say directly—have been in one ship and are placed on another.

The Chief Justice—Would exemption not be claimed by the ship owners from Singapore if the goods came from Batavia?

Mr. Pollock—If it was obvious as in this present case, Singapore was merely the junction where the goods are held for the purpose of passing them on.

The Chief Justice—That is a through bill of lading.

Mr. Pollock—No.

The Chief Justice—If I go to Jardine's and ship something to Singapore in the ordinary way, and they find out the goods have come from Japan they will claim complete exemption.

After discussion the hearing was adjourned.

ANOTHER HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

An Indian constable was "held up" on Jan. 18th between West Point and Pokfulam at the same spot where a hawk was some days previously robbed by three men. The constable, who was on patrol duty in plain clothes, was attacked by three men from behind. The first blow sent him reeling, but he recovered and offered a stout resistance. Eventually he was borne to the ground, and his metal watch and silver chain valued at \$5 were taken from him. Roused by this to greater efforts the Indian scrambled to his feet and seized the man who held his belongings. The other two resumed the attack on the Indian to make him release their companion, but the constable made such good use of his thick stick that they were glad to beat a retreat, leaving him with his capture. The robber was brought before Mr. Hazeland on Saturday on a charge of highway robbery but he was remanded till Tuesday.

BRAVERY RECOGNISED.

ACTING GOVERNOR PRESENTS MEDALS.

A pleasant function took place in the Legislative Council Chamber on January 19th, when H.E. the Officer Administering the Government presented four Chinese with medals awarded under the Belilios Trust for gallantry in saving life during the typhoon of September 18th. Among those present were Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. E. A. Irvine, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. J. Dyer Ball, Mr. C. H. Ross, Mr. S. W. Iso, Rev. and Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. May and Mrs. Badeley.

Mr. Badeley, on behalf of the trustees of the Belilios Trust, said he had the honour to request His Excellency to be so good as to present certain stars which had been awarded by the trustees to certain people for saving life during the great typhoon of September 18th. There should have been five recipients, but unfortunately one had gone astray. Two lighthouse keepers at Waglan named Chu Yu-mu and Chu Mi at great personal risk to their lives swam across a narrow neck of water and saved a Macao fisherman's life. Then police constable 304, Chue Shue-yung, and a fishmonger from Shamsui named Wong Yau at great risk to their own lives succeeded in saving the crew of a waterboat at Shamsui. Finally there was a woman from Aberdeen named Te Pat-mui who, although she did not actually risk her own life, acted very courageously in getting people to safety, thereby setting an example which unfortunately was not followed by the greater portion of the population. The speaker then asked Mr. May to present the prizes.

His Excellency, through the interpretation of Mr. Dyer Ball, said:—It is with peculiar pleasure that I am going to make these presentations to you to-day. I believe that there is a superstition among the Chinese which deters them from saving those who are apparently drowning. I believe that the superstition is something of this nature: They believe that the king of the spirits in the next world has decided that a drowning man should join the spirit world and, therefore, if the person who is about to drown is saved, of course his spirit cannot enter the spirit world, and it is necessary that some other spirit should take its place; so the risk the rescuer runs is that the king of the spirit world should decide that his spirit should take the place of the spirit of the person that he rescues. You (to Chu Mi) are evidently a man, and these, your compatriots, are also persons who don't pretend to fathom the future. What the next world has in store for you, you don't know any more than I do, and you take what I think is the wisest course, of following the good instincts of your nature. In this instance your instincts have been to save fellow creatures from death. You have not had any thought of your own lives, and I believe that whoever reigns over us in the next world will count that to you for honour. And I wish you, and I know that those who are here present will join me in the wish, that you all may lead a very long and happy life; and I trust that these medals which are going to be presented to you will serve to remind you of the good actions you have done.

His Excellency then presented the medals and \$10 bills, remarking to the hukoung as he handed him his nobly won trophy that he hoped it would not be the last he would earn. To the woman, Te Pat-mui, he said:—This is the first time in the history of the Colony that a woman has earned a medal for saving the life of a fellow creature. Then he asked through the interpreter—Have you got any sons or daughters?

"Two sons," was the reply.

His Excellency—Well, I feel sure that those sons will be proud of your action, and I suppose the best wish I can wish you is that you should have another son (laughter).

The woman graciously thanked his Excellency, and remarked that if she experienced any difficulty or trouble in the future she hoped that his Excellency would assist her.

Hon. Mr. Badeley, on behalf of the trustees of the Belilios Fund, thanked his Excellency for being so kind as to present the stars. The

fact that they were personally presented by his Excellency would be the greatest part of the valuation always attached to them.

His Excellency's brief reply terminated the proceedings.

THE GOVERNOR'S RETURN.

Earlier than was expected, H.E. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan returned to Hongkong Jan. 24th from his holiday in the South, but his welcome was none the less cordial. The P. and O. mail steamer "Devanha," on which His Excellency and his suite travelled from Singapore, was due to arrive here between four and five o'clock, but a few hours after daybreak the gale told that she was within sight. The Hon. Mr. Hewett proceeded on board and greeted Sir Matthew before he left the "Devanha." About 10.30 His Excellency accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Ponsonby, Mrs. Vaughan-Lee, Mr. K. A. B. Ponsonby, Captain Coleman, A.D.C., and Sister Stollard, came ashore in the launch "Victoria." There was no official reception at the Governor's landing, but the occasion was not allowed to pass without some outward tokens of the regard in which His Excellency is held. Blake Pier had a pathway of crimson cloth, and had a beautiful fringe of pot plants. Waiting on the pier were His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Sir Francis Piggott, Sir Henry Berkeley, Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz (Attorney General), Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Director of Public Works), Hon. Mr. E. Osborn, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Lieutenant Beckwith (Harbour Master), Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Hon. Mr. H. C. Pollock, K.C., Messrs. W. Armstrong, H. P. Tucker, A. Chapman, A. Shelton Hooper, J. Gray Scott, A. G. Morris, J. W. Lee Jones, A. G. M. Fletcher, Captain Rillet, and Mrs. Hewett.

On landing His Excellency was greeted by the Hon. Mr. May, and by the others on the wharf. Sir Matthew seemed to be completely restored to health. He looked as alert and keen as ever, and it was apparent that he had benefitted by his holiday in Java. Entering his chair he was conveyed to Government House, followed by other members of his party, and the fact that he has already announced an "At Home" for next week shows that he is feeling equal to his onerous duties.

SALE OF NAVAL VESSELS.

At Hongkong on January 23rd, on board H.M.S. *Rambler*, Messrs. Hughes and Hough, Government Auctioneers, offered this vessel for sale together with the hulk *Midge*, late a twin screw gun vessel of 603 tons. A large number assembled on board, and brisk bidding ensued.

The *Rambler*, which was knocked down to Mr. Chin Kse for \$29,900, is a single screw, composite built, copper sheathed vessel with a displacement of 835 tons and an indicated horse power of 650 N.D. Her extreme length is 163 feet 3 inches, while her breadth is 29 feet 6 inches. She was built in 1880, and has compound surface condensing, horizontal engines; a Griffith's gun metal propeller, and a three cylindrical direct tubular boiler. The load on safety valves is 60 lbs. while her distilling condenser is a two Normandy's single No. 10, distilling 2,633 gallons of water per 24 hours.

The hulk *Midge* was sold to the buyer of the previous vessel for \$7,700. She is composite built and copper sheathed, and has a length of 155 feet and breadth of 25 feet. Both vessels were sold with all fittings, etc., on board.

The police still continue on the track of gamblers, and on January 22nd Detective-Sergeant Murison made two raids. Eight men were captured while playing *fantau* at 21 Staunton street, and Mr. Melbourne fined the first two, who were proved to be the keepers of the game, \$25, while the players were fined \$3 each. Another batch of thirteen men and one woman was surprised at 15 Square Street, and on appearing before the same Magistrate the two keepers were fined \$50 and the remainder \$2 each.

JUNK BAY FLOUR MILL.

It is already known that the Junk Bay Flour Mill has made a successful start, and that operations are now in full swing on a very large scale. On the 22nd January His Excellency and Mrs. May, accompanied by a numerous party, were conducted over this big undertaking by Mr. A. H. Rennie, and as was only to be expected every one was delighted with the admirable construction and perfect organisation embodied in the Junk Bay Flour Mill. The guests included His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and Mrs. May, Mr. and Mrs. Rennie, the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Sir Paul Chater, Major and Mrs. Chitty, Mr. H. E. R. and Miss Hunter, Dr. Thorneycraft, of Kobe, Messrs. J. Orange, H. N. Mody, George Hastings, T. P. Cochrane, and A. J. Raymond. The gubernatorial party were conveyed by the *Canada* to Junk Bay, where the following were waiting to participate in the inspection, the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Messrs. Tang Lang Kuk, Au Yung Kit, Hung On, Mok Kwai Fong, Ho Yung Kai, To Min Chau, Poon Sung Ku, Li Kwung Sun, Choi Kwan Ng, Dr. Ho Lok Kum, Dr. Ho Nai Chun, Messrs. Ngan Hung Po, Chok Chup Ting, Wei Wing Hing, Poon Pak Wan (Tak Cheong), Ho Hun, etc.

An unfortunate occurrence marred the pleasure of the excursion. Mr. Mody, who, with others made use of the revolving lift to ascend to the upper floors, did not realise till too late that he had reached the last floor on the upward journey, and seeing that he would be thrown over the top of the lift either jumped off or fell off. Only Chinese witnessed the accident, but soon Mr. Rennie and Sir Paul Chater were in attendance. When discovered, the unfortunate gentleman was in an unconscious state, but he recovered under the ministrations of his solicitous friends. Fortunately there was a medical man present in the person of Dr. Thorneycraft, a stretcher was obtained and on this Mr. Mody was placed and conveyed to the *Canada*, which at once returned to Hongkong with Sir Paul Chater and Dr. Thorneycraft. Mr. Mody's back was injured, but what makes it more grave is that he was in rather feeble condition, having only recently recovered from a serious illness. Inquiry last night elicited the satisfactory intelligence that he is likely to be quite well again within a week.

After the inspection of the mill was completed the party were conveyed to the Maple Leaf where the staff are most comfortably housed. Here refreshments were served, after which

His EXCELLENCY said—On behalf of all your guests this afternoon I wish to thank you for your kindness in bringing us here and in giving us such an instructive afternoon. I think we are all agreed that we were very much interested in what we have seen. I think we are one and all agreed that the establishment we have just gone over is one of the best organised and well-conducted we have ever seen. We admire the genius of the man who conceived it and his administrative ability is evidenced in every bit of the work we have just gone over. We have partaken of the Junk Bay scones. (Applause.) Speaking personally, it is the best scone I ever ate in my life. There is nothing like supporting our own little colony. I do not think that any one could take exception to us if we register that vow and stick to it, and if it brings prosperity to the institution that we have just visited, each one of us will be only too glad. I wish now to drink the very good health of Mr. and Mrs. Rennie, and wish prosperity and success to the Junk Bay Flour Mill.

Mr. RENNIE in reply said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: To say that your kind remarks are very flattering to the energy displayed by all concerned in this enterprise does not half express my feelings. I am more delighted than I can tell you that I have been enabled to turn out flour in this short space of time. Had I not had the good fortune to pick out the very best of partners—Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Mody—who have given me a free hand

throughout, I am confident I could not have accomplished my ideal, the Junk Bay Flour Mills, in the time. It must not be forgotten that in starting an enterprise of this sort one must be most careful in the selection of the staff. The engineers are the first consideration. I will tell you about the engineer in chief later. Our Diesel engines are the most marvellously constructed. When I bought them one kind gentleman in Hongkong who is not particularly friendly to our institution suggested that we should put them between Gaupp's and Falconer's, as they would require constant repairs. They have not cost us a moment's trouble but a great many dollars. They are most economical and cost less than one third of any other engines made. They are very easily run. Mr. Carnegie said when he was asked how it was that his Pittsburg iron mine paid 33 per cent in the year that he sold it and only three per cent last year, "they bought the mine but not the man." I bought the Diesel engines and the Swiss engineer, Mr. Steaner, who helped to build them. He is here for three years. He understands them and he installed them. They have never given us a moment's trouble. I think it was a very good stroke. Mr. Stark, our chief millwright, who installed the milling plant entirely, is a genius. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Coy. have come to my aid at any time, day or night, and have supplied all the shafting and iron work. I believe they can make anything in the way of machinery equal to any produced in the world. As to my friend, Mr. Orange, who personally assisted at the installation of every large iron pillar in cement concrete, and worked side by side with me six hours a day for twelve months, I think the praise is due to him and not to me as far as the building is concerned. His assistance was invaluable, and I am sorry that he is not going to stay here instead of going home in the summer. He is too young and is perhaps afraid of his complexion. (Laughter.) If any errors in judgment have crept in I am solely to blame, and will not shrink the responsibility. I can only thank you for the kind remarks made. I know you have always had this enterprise in your mind, and further its interest from its inception.

The proceedings concluded by Mr. Rennie calling for three cheers for His Excellency and Mrs. May.

EUROPEAN LADY ROBBED.

As Mrs. A. Nicholson, of Cosmopolitan Dock, was on her way to the Government Civil Hospital on January 18th to visit her son, a coolie rushed at her and attempted to snatch her satchel. The effect of the tug was to snap the nickel chain by which it was suspended and the satchel fell to the ground, its contents which included \$40, rolling in all directions. The coolie at once picked up two \$10 bills and decamped. Meanwhile Mrs. Nicholson screamed for help, and a young gardener employed in the hospital promptly dropped his watering can, and set off in pursuit of the thief. An exciting chase followed, and as the gardener was the better sprinter he soon drew up to the exhausted coolie and handed him over to an Indian policeman. On Saturday the culprit was brought before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Magistracy and sentenced to six weeks' hard labour, four hours' stocks, twelve strokes of the birch, and to be banished.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOR 1907.

The nominations for the Municipal Council for 1907 closed tamely. Three members of the 1906 Council—Messrs. F. C. Heffer, J. Liddell and E. S. Little resigned—and in their place Messrs. J. C. Hanson, A. D. Lowe and John Prentice were elected. There being only nine nominations, an election will not be necessary.

The new Council is accordingly: Messrs. H. Keswick, A. W. Burkill, H. de Gray, J. C. Hanson, A. D. Lowe, O. Meuser, W. H. Poate, John Prentice and E. B. Skottowe.

COMPANIES.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LD.

The eighteenth report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's offices Victoria Buildings, at noon on Monday, Jan. 28th, reads:—

Gentlemen.—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profits for that period, including \$67,839.41, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$440,827.54. From this amount an interim dividend of \$3.50 per share has already been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$3.50 per share, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$56,218.38 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Shellim having resigned Mr. D. M. Nissim was invited to join the Board in his place and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Messrs. A. J. Raymond and D. M. Nissim now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. C. W. May and H. Percy Smith, who now retire but offer themselves for re-election.

W. J. GIBSON,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET.

| Dec. 31st, 1906. | LIABILITIES. | \$ | c. |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----|
| Capital | | 5,000,000.00 | |
| Equalization of dividend fund | | 250,000.00 | |
| Accounts payable | | 1,957,341.26 | |
| Balance of profit and loss account | | 440,827.54 | |
| Less interim dividend paid | | 175,000.00 | |
| | | 265,827.54 | |

\$7,473,368.80

| Dec. 31, 1906. | ASSETS. | \$ | c. |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|----|
| Cash | | 8,771.21 | |
| Amount advanced on mortgage | | 1,333,710.00 | |
| Amount invested in property | | 6,030,975.75 | |
| Furniture account | | 4,190.42 | |
| Accounts receivable | | 75,731.42 | |

\$7,473,368.80

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| Dec. 31st, 1906. | Dr. | \$ | c. |
|--|-----|------------|----|
| To interim dividend of 3½ per cent for the half-year | | 175,000.00 | |
| To charges account | | 30,139.79 | |
| To repairs to house property | | 14,194.36 | |
| To advertising | | 1,033.12 | |
| To fire insurance | | 19,869.80 | |
| To interest on loans payable \$19,702.53 | | | |
| Less interest on mortgages | | 117,566.97 | |
| | | 1,845.56 | |

| | | | |
|---|------------|------------|--|
| To balance to be appropriated as follows:— | | | |
| Directors' fees | \$7,500.00 | | |
| Managing directors' fees | 26,109.16 | | |
| Auditors' fees | 1,000.00 | | |
| Final dividend of 3½ per cent for the half-year | 175,000.00 | | |
| Balance to be carried to new account | 56,218.38 | | |
| | | 265,827.54 | |

\$507,810.17

| Jan. 1st, 1906. | Cr. | \$ | c. |
|----------------------------|-----|------------|----|
| By undivided profits, 1905 | | 67,839.41 | |
| Dec. 31st. | | | |
| By rents | | 428,558.01 | |
| By commission | | 11,255.75 | |
| By scrip fees | | 157.00 | |
| | | 507,810.17 | |

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighteenth report of the general agents to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at 11.30 o'clock a.m. on Monday, January 28th, reads:—

Gentlemen.—The general agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$53,319.47. From this amount an interim dividend of \$2.00 per share has

already been paid, and after writing off directors' and auditor's fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.10 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$4.10 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$1,519.47 to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson having retired, Hon. W. J. Gresson has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. A. J. Raymond retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May, who offers himself for re-election.

A. SHILTON HOOPER,
Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET to 31st December, 1906.

| Dec. 31st, 1906. | LIABILITIES. | \$ | c. |
|--|--------------|-------------|----|
| Capital | | 625,000.00 | |
| Accounts payable | | 910.89 | |
| Balance of profit and loss account | | \$51,319.47 | |
| Less interim dividend paid | | 25,000.00 | |
| | | 28,319.47 | |

| Dec. 31st, 1906. | ASSETS. | \$ | c. |
|------------------------|---------|--------------|----|
| Cost of property | | 611,801.81 | |
| Cash | | 39,428.55 | |
| | | \$654,230.36 | |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| Dec. 31st 1906. | Dr. | \$ | c. |
|---|-----|-----------|----|
| To fire insurance | | 3,247.75 | |
| To charges | | 247.45 | |
| To Crown rent | | 818.00 | |
| To repairs to buildings | | 1,011.99 | |
| To commission to agents | | 2,765.62 | |
| To interim dividend of \$2.00 for half-year | | 25,000.00 | |
| To balance to be appropriated as follows:— | | | |
| Directors' fees | \$ | 500.00 | |
| Auditor's fees | | 50.00 | |
| Dividend of \$2.10 per share | | 26,250.00 | |
| Balance to be carried to new account | | 1,519.47 | |
| | | 28,319.47 | |

| Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1906. | Cr. | \$ | c. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------------|----|
| By balance brought forward | | 772.78 | |
| By rents | | 61,000.00 | |
| By interest | | 6,650 | |
| By scrip fees | | 31.00 | |
| | | \$61,413.28 | |

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

RESOLUTIONS CONFIRMED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of the company, Cornhill, London, on the 27th December for the purpose of confirming the resolutions passed at the meeting on the 11th ult. as to the division of the existing 120,000 ordinary shares of £10 each into two shares of £5 each, preferred and deferred, and the apportionment of the rights of each class of shares as from the 1st January, 1907, together with certain consequential alterations in the articles of association.

Representatives of the Press were not invited to the meeting, but from subsequent inquiries it was ascertained that the Chairman (Mr. W. Keswick, M.P.) presided over a very small body of shareholders and that the resolutions were unanimously confirmed without discussion.

The Registrar of Companies notifies that at the expiration of three months the following Companies will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the Register and the Companies will be dissolved:—The Tun Yik Marine Fire and Life Insurance Co., Ltd.; The Chinese General Construction Co., Ltd.; The Tao Sung Steam Launch Navigation Co., Ltd.; The East Sunrise Fire and Marine Insurance, Exchange Mortgage and Godown Co., Ltd.; The Hankow Daily Times Co., Ltd. The names of the undermentioned Companies have been struck off the Register:—The Anglo-Japanese Locomotive and Engineering Co., Ltd.; The Union Brewery Co., Ltd.; The China Carrying Co., Ltd.; The Eastern Flour and Provision Co., Ltd.; The Wang Yip Timber Co., Ltd.; The Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Hongkong, January 21st, 1907.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I enclose copy of letter of 11th instant from the Singapore Cricket Club inviting the Hongkong Cricket Club to send a Hongkong, or combined China, team to Singapore during Easter 1907 to play cricket against the Straits and Rangoon teams.

No Hongkong team has visited Singapore since 1890—16 years ago—although Hongkong has been favoured by visits from the Straits on several occasions within this period, and the Committee are very desirous in the interests of interport cricket to return these visits by one this year.

I shall be glad to receive as soon as possible the names of players willing to visit Singapore so as to enable the Committee to decide whether they are justified in accepting this invitation.

It would be necessary for the team to leave Hongkong on Saturday, 23rd March. The approximate date of arrival back here would be April 15th. Yours faithfully,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

[Copy.]

SINGAPORE CRICKET CLUB
Secretary's Office.

Singapore, January, 11th 1907.

To the Hon. Secretary,
Hongkong Cricket Club,
Hongkong.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the S.C.C. I have the pleasure to invite the Hongkong Cricket Club to send a China or Hongkong Team to play the Straits at Cricket at Easter.

We have invited the Rangoon Gymkhana Club also to send a Burma Team at the same time which will admit of a series of triangular matches being played between the three Teams. This invitation also includes Lawn Tennis, Golf and any other games you can send representatives to play.

With regard to the dates upon which the matches might be played we have suggested to Burma just before and during Easter, and we trust these dates will be found convenient to your representatives.

I need hardly add the pleasure it will give us to again welcome a Team from China in Singapore and the pleasure it will be to be able to reciprocate the cordial hospitality shown to our Teams when we have visited Hongkong.

Trusting that you will be able to accept this invitation, Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) G. W. P. OWEN,
Secretary.

SLEEPING SUITS FOR SOLDIERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Hongkong is the only garrison in the Empire where the English soldier receives from the State "sleeping suits" as part of his personal equipment. These valuable articles greatly protect the men against chills, and by covering the body at night tend to check the mosquito bites that bring with them the malarial poison.

We want such articles greatly for the army in general. The War Office reply that "they can hold out no hopes of such issue" although 15,000 soldiers were admitted to hospital with ague in the last army report for the year of its publication. This number does not cover half the admissions, as many men do not go to hospital for ague, but go through their attacks in their barracks. I now appeal to soldiers of every rank and corps in Hongkong to favour me with confidential letters as to the utility of these articles to enable me to appeal more fully to Parliament to issue these necessary articles to the soldier. It is the ague-stricken soldier, who, on return to England, is unable to fight his battle for employment in the labour market through weakness. I desire to prevent the ague attacks by making

the State issue these articles to the troops. It seems to me lamentable that 75,000 English troops in India should be without such clothing. All letters sent would be absolutely confidential and only used in a summary form. But there are in Hongkong many people outside the army greatly interested in the soldier's betterment. To these ladies and gentlemen, whoever they may be, I would ask for any testimony that comes within their knowledge from the soldiers about the effects of these articles of dress on the wellbeing of the men.

I always maintain that if the nation only knew the details of the soldier's life betterment rapidly would come to him. The struggle to-day is whether "Betterment" in pay, clothing, national discipline, and food is to be triumphant or whether compulsory service is to be the rule. Myself a supporter of "Betterment" as against "compulsion" one can only win by the struggle for improving every defect within the service—hence this letter.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. H. EVATT,
Surgeon General.

Junior United Service Club,
St. James,
London, December 20th, 1906.

CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY
LOAN AGREEMENT.

A Peking dispatch states that the Canton-Kowloon Railway Loan Agreement made last autumn in Peking between H.E. Tang Shao-yi, representing the Chinese Government, and Mr. J. O. P. Bland, representative of the British Corporation, had been made the subject of a joint memorial of the Waiwupu and Yuch'uanpu (Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Posts and Communications) to the Throne, in which their Majesties' approval to the Agreement is asked. It will be remembered that recently an attempt was made by a small clique of interested persons in Shanghai to start an agitation against the terms of the loan to repudiate it, on the ground that there was quite sufficient capital in China for the enterprise. We may state that when his Excellency Tang Shao-yi heard of this he was most indignant and at once sent a telegram to Canton, where a similar agitation had been started, upbraiding the agitators and stating that for several months prior to the signing of the Agreement plenty of time had been given to the people of the country to subscribe funds to build the Railway in question with Chinese capital. Furthermore, his Excellency had repeatedly asked the leading gentry of Canton whether they could take up the matter of raising the necessary funds, otherwise there would be no help for it, but to procure a foreign loan, so as to push forward the construction of the line. To all his Excellency's inquiries on the subject came the same reply that there was no ready money in the country to construct the proposed railway with Chinese capital. Not until then, continued his Excellency's telegram, was there any move to obtain the needed funds from a foreign source, and it was therefore improper not to say ridiculous, to try to repudiate an agreement that had been made and signed after every chance had been given those interested in the proposed railway to raise the money themselves. "It was a matter to be regretted, looking from the point of view of the objectors, but it was now too late to make any objections, under the circumstances."

As may be remembered there has been a good deal of talk from Canton about the considerable amounts that have been subscribed towards the construction of the proposed Canton-Hankow Railway—alleged to total several million taels. So far, however, as can be learned, a great part of this money is merely on paper, only a small moiety being on a "cash basis." We now understand that the Peking Government is desirous of energetically pushing on the construction of the line and has accordingly sent instructions to Canton to find how much of the money "subscribed" is in hard cash and how much on paper.—N.-C. Daily News.

CONFUCIAN REVIVAL.

SAGE RANKED WITH HEAVEN AND EARTH.

A Chinese Imperial Decree dated December 30th is thus translated:—"In view of the supreme excellence of the great sage Confucius whose virtues equal heaven and earth and make him worthy of the adoration of a myriad ages, it is the desire of her Imperial Majesty the Empress Dowager Tze Hsi, etc., that the great sage shall in future be accorded the same sacrificial ceremonies of worship accorded to heaven and earth when sacrifice is paid by the Emperor. Let the yamen concerned take note of this."

Concerning this Decree the *North China Herald* remarks:

"The tendency of modern times is against the maintenance of State religions, and it would seem at all events somewhat late in the day—half way into the third decennium since the death of the sage—for China to set up Confucianism on a plane equivalent to that implied in the words at the head of this note. Yet that is the reading which is given in some foreign circles to the remarkable Decree issued recently from Peking, ordering rites similar to those performed to the deities of Heaven and Earth to be offered henceforth to the memory of Confucius. The Decree should perhaps be read more intimately with the other instructions which have been given for the establishment of schools, colleges and universities in the native city of the sage "to propagate his grand teachings and to enlighten the people with his wisdom." It is significant that the orders in connection with the foundation of these schools are committed to Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, who is to be provided with Tls. 100,000 from the Shantung provincial treasury for the work. Viceroy Chang, as is well-known, is an ardent Confucianist, and, up to his lights, is no less ardent an educationist. The Decree may be considered as the result of repeated urgings on his part and, to that extent, they are, no doubt, a counterblast to the movements all over China for education in Western sciences and on modern lines. It is a perfectly reasonable idea, and one that is held by many of the more enlightened officials of China, as well as by some who are, unhappily, less public-spirited, that in the craving for modern knowledge, the classics, which have been, and in a sense remain, China's chiefest glory, should not be allowed to fall into contempt. There need be nothing more than a wise conservatism in this organized and official recognition of Confucianism. The heaven of the new learning has spread too widely to be hindered, and some of the extravagances which have followed inevitably on the inrush of fresh ideas may be moderated by this rehabilitation of the ancient wisdom."

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says of it:—"It may be pointed out that by Grand Sacrifice is meant the same as usually offered by the Emperor in person at the Altars of Heaven and Earth, and this Edict would apparently signify the formal adoption by the Throne of Confucianism as the State religion. As everyone who has studied Chinese history at all is aware, China never has had what we understand as a national religion. She has had on the contrary several systems of ethics which appear to have enjoyed an impartial following, though with the educated classes Confucianism has in later years been gradually perhaps receiving more attention, and it is well known that for some time past it has been part of the official programme to have some special religion recognised. The doctrine of Confucius is a practical, colourless code of moral ethics, devoid of any lofty standard of unattainable ideals, and based on the ancestral reverence which has unconsciously become second nature with the Chinese, offers the line of least resistance in religious thought and effort, and is therefore the most commendable in official eyes for adoption by the State. It does not moreover bristle with prohibitive injunctions, nor burden with requirements which the Chinese are not naturally inclined to bear. It is an easy religious code which permits of respect of persons especially those most intimately connected with the personal interests, while on the other hand with the most illogical contradiction it enslaves its followers to the dead and

chains them body and soul to the past. For China's real welfare and advancement there could not perhaps be a more regrettable movement than this sudden elevation of the great sage to the rank and position of a very god, and we cannot but fear that the Edict will operate adversely to the spread of Christianity just as some of the fruit of the higher doctrine was apparently beginning to be seen. The recent observance of Confucian rites in the official schools has been watched with some anxiety by native Christians and those educated Chinese who, if not active Christians themselves, recognise in Christianity the highest standard of morality which has yet been presented to the world, and are well content to see its ever increasing influence in their country. But Christianity spells sustained and continual effort; it spells opposition to all that a fat and corrupt officialdom loves and clings to, and it spells above all at the present moment foreign influence, and we greatly fear that underlying the present movement the wholly fatuous idea is at work that in keeping out the foreigner and all his works lies China's only way of salvation."

SLAVE HUNTER KILLED.

EXCITING SCENE ON A HOLLANDER MAN-OF-WAR.

From Celebes comes news of an amok in which a slave dealer, after some excitement, lost his life. The island of Muna, which lies off the coast of Celebes, has been for some time a favourite resort for slave hunters, who periodically raided the inhabitants. Matters became so bad that a Hollander man-of-war was despatched to the scene of the depredations. The attention of the Controller and soldiers was directed towards a notorious character named Masinale who was soon arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to seven years' hard labour. His punishment was to be undergone at Macassar and he was, accordingly, placed on board the war vessel.

On the way there was trouble, and one night the prisoner was successful in freeing himself of his handcuffs. He somehow obtained possession of a knife and stabbed the sentry. Picking up the wounded man's rifle, the prisoner fired at the guard, who were enjoying a quiet game of cards, but the rifle was rusty and would not go off. This gave the guard a chance to fall upon the prisoner who retaliated with the knife, and he succeeded in stabbing three of them. Meanwhile the Controller arrived upon the scene and gave the prisoner a blow on the head.

The ship's steward seized one of the prisoner's legs and laid him flat on the deck, and then it was easy work to bayonet him to death.

The Governor of Celebes gave the steward a reward of one hundred guilders for his action.

PHILIPPINO-JAPANESE ASSOCIATION.

TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRADE.

A Philippino-Japanese Association has been formed at Tokyo "to promote friendly relations between the two peoples and to facilitate commercial relations between the two neighbouring island countries." Among the promoters of the new association are Messrs. Oishi, Mukai, and Haseba.

Some of the regulations of the association are as follows:—

"1.—The Headquarters of the Association are to be situated in Tokyo and a branch in Manila.

"2.—The Association will publish a magazine in the Japanese, English and Spanish languages in which all matters concerning commerce and science will be reported.

"3.—The Association will recommend the fostering and extension of navigation between the two countries.

"4.—The Association will make efforts towards the establishment of banks and insurance in Manila."

OPIUM POURPARLERS.

WILL BRITISH MERCHANTS BE COMPENSATED?

The British Minister has asked the Waiwupu to state whether the Chinese Government is prepared to pay an indemnity to those British merchants, who have until now imported Indian opium and who will suffer in future by the prohibition of further imports.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

The following is the letter referred in our telegram, which was forwarded to H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Shanghai, Sir Pelham Warren.

"Sir,—The proposals recently made by the Chinese Government to prohibit the consumption of Opium in China are naturally of such great importance to us British Merchants who deal in this commodity that we think we are entitled to the earliest information as to what is proposed to be done in the matter by H.B.M. Government.

It may be known to you that India exports to China every year about 75,000 chests of Opium of value of about Tls. 50,000,000, and the whole trade is carried on by the British Merchants, who at the present moment hold enormous stocks in Shanghai and Hongkong, the value of which may be roughly put down at Tls. 10,000,000. The magnitude of these figures speaks for itself, and makes it obvious how our interests must be affected by the sudden contemplated changes.

Though we claim no voice on the question of the extinction of the trade, we do claim to be heard as to the manner in which such extinction should be carried out. It is most important that in order not to entail heavy and ruinous losses on us, the suppression of the trade should be carried out gradually, and any measures that are framed should give ample time to the merchants to work off their stocks in hand or contracted for. We feel confident that the British Authorities will not refuse to accept representations and suggestions from those so heavily interested, and specially qualified to give them.

When it is known definitely what regulations will be put in force, we merchants can provide accordingly, and the trade, though dwindling, will be carried on according to circumstances. For this reason, if for no other, we ask that we should be informed as soon as possible of the views of H.B.M. Government.

We therefore ask you as the representative of H.B.M. Government in Shanghai to bring these our requests to the notice of the proper Authorities and hope that an early reply may be given to us.

We are, your obedient servants, David Sassoon & Co., Ltd., E. D. Sassoon & Co., S. J. David & Co., Cawasjee, Palanjee & Co., E. Pabaney, Abdoolally Ebrahim & Co., Tata & Co., R. S. N. Talati & Co., Talati & Co., P. B. Petit & Co., M. M. B. Afshar & Co., D. E. J. Abraham, Isaac Ezra & Co.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIMENTS IN COCHIN-CHINA.

News from Saigon announce an important administrative experiment in Cochin-China. An order by the Governor-General divides Cochin-China into two areas of "inspection of civil services." The inspection will be exercised by an inspector of civil services or an administrator of the first class assisted by a native official of high rank. The provinces forming a "circumscription" or inspection are grouped with regard to ethnological and geographical considerations and facility of communications. They will retain their autonomy under the direct authority of the chief of the local administration. This change is effected with a view to the introduction of ameliorations and improvements in the administrative services in the provinces, particularly on the subject of the native administration, in deference to the wishes expressed during the last session of the Superior Council by the native members.

The Governor General is studying the extension of this system to Tonkin, Annam and Cambodia.

SO SOON?

OPIUM PROHIBITION TO BE RECONSIDERED.

The Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes on January 3rd:—By a recent Imperial Decree, H.E. Ko Feng-shih was recalled from his appointment as the Governor of Kuangsi and allowed to retain his post as Director-General of the home-grown opium tax administration for the provinces of Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Anhui, Hupeh, Hunan, Szechuan, Kuangtung and Kuangsi as usual with Ch'eng Yi-lao (who was recently appointed in his place) as his assistant. Both of these—Director-General and Deputy Director-General—will have their headquarters at Wuchang, capital of Hupeh.

According to a recent memorial from the Director-General, the largest amount of tax collected during the last year was about Tls. 3,000,000 from Szechuan, while the total yearly revenue would amount to something like Tls. 15,000,000 or a little more if the administration is properly managed hereafter. Thus in addition to the several millions of dollars of revenue collected every year from Indian opium by the I.M.C. the Chinese Government will have to devise means and ways to make up the enormous deficit of fully Tls. 20,000,000 if the anti-opium reform is actually adopted in the Empire. In view of the general shortage of funds in the various provinces I am at a loss to know by what methods the Chinese authorities, who are for the most part ignorant about financial affairs, can make good this immense loss of revenue from both foreign and native drugs. Thus your correspondent has been informed by a reliable Chinese official here that in view of the gravity of the opium question, the Government has wired to the Viceroy, Governors and Tartar Generals advising them to furnish their final opinions and say definitely whether the evil can be entirely stamped out in their respective provinces within the ten years' period as fixed by Imperial Decree, that is to say, they may ask for an extension of the date, if any of them find it difficult to stop the harmful trade within their jurisdictions during the fixed period. It is also rumoured here that owing to the recent protest of Sir John Jordan to the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs against the sudden prohibition of the establishment of opium dens, etc., in Chihli by H.E. Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai without first fixing a definite date for the stoppage of the importation of Indian opium into China by British merchants and also for the sake of uniformity, the order of H.E. Yuan will be temporarily withdrawn, so that all the opium dens in the provinces may be closed after a certain date after proper arrangements have been made with Sir John Jordan.

SWATOW RAILWAY REPORT.

The official report upon the railway is published. It confirms, says a correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, the main indictment which every one with eyes in his head has been able to bring against the work—the insufficiency of the mud embankment, and sand patching and ballast to stand the onslaughts of the tropical rains which are common here. In some places the sleepers float in a bed of sand. The report forecasts the opening of three other stations, and the building of a depot in Swatow, probably at its eastern extremity, on the main road or near it. Attention is also drawn to the large number of Japanese employed first of all in the construction, and now in the management of the railway; but notices that some Chinese have been sent to Formosa to learn railway business. \$5-600 are given as the daily receipts; and a rise to \$1,000 a day as soon as the goods traffic is opened, is forecasted. At present there is persistent rumour that the line is being run at a considerable loss.

The survey of the line from Canton to Amoy, the Kuang-Hsia Railway, is in progress. It will travel eastward from Canton through Polo, Kuishan, the Hai-feng, Hweilai and Kishyang Prefectures, to Ch'aochowfu, and from there through the Haiyang and Jaoping Prefectures into Fukien, and so on to Amoy. Orders have been issued to the different Chihhsien to protect the surveying party.

ANOTHER PEKING DECREE.

A NEPOTIST ON NEPOTISM.

Following is a translation made for the *N.-C. Daily News*, of the Chinese Imperial Decree, dated January 13th, referred to in to-day's leader:

"The difficulties that surround us in the Government of our Empire cause us sleepless nights in our anxiety to meet the crisis and restore prosperity to the country. Under the circumstances our Ministers and officers high and low should respond by exerting themselves in patriotic and loyal efforts. We feel indignant therefore to learn that ever since taking over their respective posts as President and Senior Vice-President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, both Chang Po-hsi and Tang Shao-yi have been appointing their favourites to posts in their Ministry to the exclusion of others, thereby causing much hostile comments on their conduct. The two Ministers, having failed in the confidence we placed upon them, ought to have been forthwith dismissed from office. We will, however, exercise our prerogative of leniency on this occasion and hereby command that the Imperial displeasure be communicated to the said Chang Po-hsi and Tang Shao-yi, and they are furthermore commanded to make careful selection of proper men for the posts of First Secretaries, Councillors and subordinate classes of secretaries in the said Ministry and reject all who are incapable. All business in connection with the said Ministry should be dealt with only after mature consultation with their colleagues. Should there be any similar acts of favouritism in the future we will hold the said two Ministers responsible for the same."

INTERESTING CHINESE CLAIM AT MANILA.

—The *Cablenews* of January 16th has the following:—

Wong Tai, a Chinese millionaire, a man who claims to be the owner of the P20,610 seized on board the *Taming* in the possession of Lin Fan, the Chinese comprador, was presented in the court of first instance yesterday morning to prove that his claim to the money was a good one and why it was his, and why it should not be seized by the Philippine government.

Wong Tai arrived yesterday morning on the *Rubi* from Hongkong. He was at first held up as suffering from trachoma. After some delay it was decided that he should land but under the custody of the detective who accompanied him and who was instructed to return him to the ship every day after the sessions of the court.

Wong is a merchant and has lived 45 years in Hongkong where he has carried on business greatly to his own financial advantage and judging finally from his indifference it would be a small matter to him should the government finally confiscate the money.

The attorney for the defence put the witness on the stand and got him to tell how it happened. Wong stated that the defendant Lin Fan went one day to his store and told him in glowing terms of the grand opportunity that was before him of making an honest penny, or for the matter of that a good many of them by the purchase in the Philippines of old currency, Mexican and Spanish-Filipino. He further suggested that the Philippine silver that found its way into Hongkong from various parts could be returned to the Philippines and there exchanged into the old currency.

Wong took the hint and began to gather in the shekels and entrusted them to Lin Fan to take to Manila where he should make the best exchange he could. Fan found that he could not make the deal stick in Manila as the price of the old currency was too high, so determined to carry back the money to Hongkong, but it was found in his cabin and had been seized. This was the gist of his story.

Then began the questioning. In reply to questions he stated that he had purchased the Philippine silver in different lots and at different times and prices and expected to make an average of P70 on every thousand. He bought P8,500 at the rate of \$965 Hongkong currency per thou-

and; for another lot of P3,000 he paid \$968 per P1,000; P8,000 he bought for \$970 per thousand and at the rate of \$971 per thousand he secured the rest.

He handed this money over to Lin Fan and took his receipt and moreover insured it on the 4th day of December last, the insurance being for "20,600 pieces of silver valued at P21,000."

The insurance policy was offered in evidence and attached to it an affidavit of the person who signed it saying that he had done so. The prosecution objected to the affidavit on the grounds that it contained an *ex parte* statement. The court overruled the objection. "If you had read the affidavit you would not make such a statement" declared the judge.

The prosecution then objected on the grounds that the signature was not proved. "Thought the document bore no signature it would still be good" remarked the judge.

"Is this the first time you have ever sent Philippine money to the Philippines?" asked the prosecution.

"It is the first and it will be the last" replied Wong Tai.

The case was not concluded and will be continued at a later date.

THE FAMINE IN CHINKIANG.

A Chinkiang telegram to the *N.-C. Daily News*, dated January 8th, says: From a comprehensive survey of the situation in the camps, and after consultation with leading men, officials, civilians and missionaries, I estimate that there are 17,000 refugees in the vicinity of this town. Of these 5,000 show evidence of acute distress, while the rest are in a normal condition physically, but are extremely filthy and covered with vermin. There are 5,000 able-bodied men, at a minimum computation among them. The huts are scattered about pell mell; the camps are unorganized and in a most insanitary condition. Two and a half tons of rice are being cooked daily and being distributed in the morning by the Taotai's officials. Many loafers and labourers seize the opportunity of a free meal.

There is no work doing and no attempt has been made to organize mass labour, which is left idle, while the thoroughfares and so-called roads over which material and food are being transported are in a disgraceful condition. The Grand Canal, south of the river, is completely silted up in places and impassable for traffic. Bunding work alone would give employment to the whole number of male adults. The reason given by the officials for not instituting relief works is that they have no funds; this, however, is puerile as the initial expenditure would be almost nil.

Meanwhile the population is becoming pauperized. Local charitable efforts are necessarily limited and lack cohesion and practice. There is undoubtedly every prospect of a grave disaster ahead in the form of an epidemic in this neighbourhood, and it would seem that the only way to obviate this lies in making sanitary camps, and in employing all able-bodied men and women on some work of a permanent character.

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

SLIGHT INCREASE IN ESTIMATE.

The estimate of the Government subsidies for Japanese steamship services for next year, commencing on April 1st, as included in the Budget, is given at about Y8,450,000, showing an increase of about Y250,000. The principal services to receive the subsidy are as follows:—

1.—Yangtze service, between Shanghai, Su-chow and Hangchow and the Hunan Steamship Company. A greater amount is required on account of the increased number of ships on this service.

2.—Services between Tokyo and the Bonins, and between the mainland and islands belonging to Kagoshima Prefecture. More subsidy is again required as the number of ships calling at the islands has increased.

3.—Australia, Seattle and San Francisco. No change, as the old contract is still in force.

4.—Services to Korean ports.

5.—Services to the Hokkaido.

MA DAT SAN, THE BOYCOTT LEADER.

INTERVIEWED IN PRISON.

A few days ago I was buried for nearly an hour in the narrow crowded streets of this human bee-hive, Canton, journeying towards the Nam Hoi magistracy in the hope of meeting the now famous head of the Boycott movement against the commerce with the United States. The odds were against the interview, for such an innovation as a chat with a detained subject of His Imperial Majesty was not likely to be countenanced. Assurance and a kind friend won the day however. I was conducted through a maze of badly paved courtyards into a flagged enclosure. A pleasant-faced, intellectual looking, gentleman in English dress came forward and shook hands most cordially.

"Ma Dat San" said the guide. The individual in European dress smiled and shook hands again—this time with himself.

The face lit up. He bent forward almost imperceptibly. The fingers of one hand drummed nervously on a table—we had left the enclosure. Clothes, size, first impressions, everything faded, and I was looking at a face and hearing a voice. The face was mobile. It throbbed and one detected beneath the surface the spirit of the visionary, and of the leader. In the speech—passionate, explanatory, and musical—the orator was discerned. Unhushed he would assuredly become an interesting personality. I realised that I had met a man who was worth an hour's journey.

Yes, he was one of the principal founders of the Boycott movement against the United States. Friends and students who had gone to America reported that the Chinese were ill-treated in the cities. It was against the laws of Heaven to treat his countrymen in that way, for in the brotherhood of man each should be treated alike. The original emigrants were mostly of the poor class who had probably ruined themselves by gambling, which was especially prevalent in the South of China. Last year the President of the United States Government promised that the Exclusion laws and Immigration laws would be modified. In consequence of this the merchants had let the matter stand until quite recently when they received a telegram from the States saying that the matter had never been brought before Congress. When the President gave his promise some of the merchant had sold their old stocks, and others not understanding the position saw that American goods were being sold, and they ordered fresh goods from the United States. The movement however had never really ceased since last year. At this stage the Boycott leader produced a cipher cable message. It was the famous message from Oakland, California. It ran as follows:—

"Yesterday the President of the United States told Congress that he will not mention about Chinese Immigration laws, and if you people do not cease to use American goods all the trouble that has gone before will be wasted and then the Exclusion acts will be more repressive. We beg that you will immediately devise means to restore the Boycott to save those people in the States so that they will not bring in any more repressive laws; also to exhort all the people not to go as labourers to the Panama Canal. Send telegrams and notices and spread the news through all parts of China to boycott American goods again." Ma explained that on receipt of this telegram the feelings of the Chinese were "agitated", on account of the United States Government not keeping their promise. He then gave a short account of the proceedings which followed but those are now fairly well known. He explained that the members of the Society had to listen to what their officials said and it was their duty to especially heed the words of the Viceroy, but they had agreed to send a respectful petition to His Excellency. In view of the statements made in the proclamation the Society had sent a telegram to the United States asking that further inquiries should be made in order to ascertain whether the despatch

of the first telegram from America was a mistake.

"And did the reply confirm the first cable message?" I asked curiously. Ma traced the answer to my question on the table with his finger. The reply was said to contain the following statements—The Chinese Minister in the United States had telegraphed to the Foreign Office, the Bureau of Commerce, and to Viceroy Chou Fu memorializing them to the effect that the Boycott carried on in the proper way was not contrary to the canons of International Law, and advising them not to repress it. In fact they should help its supporters to continue it and not be afraid. Certain limits, however, he also advised should not be exceeded in carrying on the Boycott, neither should force be used nor disturbance caused. In addition to reporting this statement the sum of \$2,000 was remitted from the donors, who had heard that the Society's funds had been seized up. Continuing the chat, Ma stated that the Society had possessed over \$20,000 but this fund had been "taken away." It had been subscribed by merchants in the United States, China, Australia and elsewhere in a large measure for the fostering of Chinese industry. Apparently one of the chief aims of the Opposing Treaty Society had been the establishment of a kind of Trade Depot where the manufacturing of all kinds of foreign goods could be taught. This was intended to obviate the necessity for so many Chinese Emigrants. This scheme had been stopped by the authorities who concluded that it was only a cloak for the Boycott as the Depot was situated in the Hospital where the meetings had been held from time to time. In reply to a query he frankly admitted that it was a pity that he had been detained at this juncture when the movement had just been renewed. Merchants had agreed to send in their goods to a central depot in order that those American goods could be disposed of without too heavy a loss, and they had promised that in future they would not order American goods. Owing to his detention the Centre had not yet been started. Asked whether the Society was friendly to Australia he replied in effect that the Chinese seemed to be satisfied with Australia as they were well treated there; but, he added, he could not tell whether in the future they would make thorough inquiry into the question of the treatment of the Chinese in Australia.

So a remarkable interview ended, all too soon from my standpoint. It left behind the impression that the movement has a strong leader and that every effort will be made to induce the authorities to reconsider their attitude.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

January 18th.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE "PAUL BEAU".
On the morning of the 17th inst. at 2 p.m. when the steamer had just entered the river and was but a short distance from the Boca Tigris pass, an accident happened on board the *Paul Beau*, on which I happened to be a passenger. The main steam pipe exploded, causing the engines to be stopped at once. Fortunately for those in the engine room the engineer on watch did the necessary things at once and nobody was hurt. The steamer had to cast anchor and await help. At 6 a.m. a Chinese gunboat was sighted, but refused to convey the foreign passengers (4 in number) to Canton as she had valuable presents on board from the Emperor of China for Viceroy Chou Fu. Meanwhile the chief officer was despatched to Whampoa to get assistance and to telegraph to the agents. The Customs Cruiser *Fei-foo*, (Captain F. W. Callen) was met and the chief officer returned on her to the steamer and the mails and the passengers were conveyed to Canton. Captain Callen's courtesy was much appreciated by all, everybody landing at Canton at 2 p.m. without further mishap.

MR. CONSUL NICKERSON AND THE VICEROY.
His Excellency Viceroy Chou Fu granted an extended audience on the 15th instant to the Honourable S. W. Nickerson, Imperial Chinese Consul at Boston, Mass. U.S.A., who is travelling in the East for his health. It is thought that Mr. Nickerson's stay in Canton

is being prolonged to enable him to gain the benefits of H.E. the Viceroy's instructions about the affairs of the Chinese in the United States, all of whom are natives of the Provinces under the Viceroy's rule and in whose welfare His Excellency takes great interest. It is believed in Canton that renewed efforts on the part of the Chinese Government are to be made to obtain better treatment for all Chinese in America, and that Mr. Nickerson's presence in Canton has some connection therewith. He is known to be a warm admirer of H.E. the Viceroy, and to be unstinted in his praises of that high official's broad views and progressive attitude. H.E. Taotai Lo honoured Mr. Nickerson with a call on the 16th instant and remained some time with him. Lo Taotai is a good English scholar, and having resided in London for several years, is very broad minded, and is a useful adviser to His Excellency.

AN UNPLEASANT RUMOUR.

It is rumoured that Viceroy Chou Fu received a confidential telegram informing him of his transfer to Chili or Szachwan and of Tuan Fang's appointment to Liang Kwang. Yuen Shi Kai is going to Hai Lung Kiang and Shun Chun Huen to the Liang Kiang or back to Liang Kwang, where he wishes to come back, and it is said that there is every probability of his succeeding. It is also said to be trying to get into the G and Council.

January 24th.

ITALIAN-CHINESE AMENITIES.

At 11 a.m. yesterday Viceroy Chou Fu called on Commandatore Volpicelli (who had arrived a few hours before), Italian Consul-General, at the Victoria Hotel. His Excellency was accompanied by Lo Taotai. After the usual courtesies the Viceroy returned direct to his yamen. Comm. Volpicelli will return the call on the 25th instant, and will be accompanied by Baron Novellis, (Captain of the Cruiser *Marco Polo*), and a suite of Italian officers. Baron Novellis was until lately Commodore of the Italian Squadron in the Far East and hauled down his flag only when he left Shanghai.

On the 26th instant Comm. Volpicelli, Baron Novellis and suite will call on the Tartar-General, the 24th and 25th instant being Court mourning days (anniversaries of deaths of sovereigns of the present dynasty) no salutes can be fired; and, consequently, the Tartar-General cannot receive them on those days. Baron Novellis has been specially requested by the Italian Legation at Peking to call upon H.E. the Viceroy.

AN AMERICAN APPOINTMENT.

Viceroy Chou Fu has appointed the Honourable Stephen W. Nickerson (Imperial Chinese Consul at Boston, Mass. U.S.A.) as Director General of the Chinese Commercial Intelligence Bureau for the United States. Cablegrams have been sent to Washington and to the Wai-wa-pu announcing the appointment.

TRANSFER RUMOUR CONTRADICTED.

Local authorities have received telegrams from Peking stating that the rumour of the transfer of Viceroy Chou Fu and the high officials is without foundation. It states that H.E. Chou Fu's second son has been promoted to Salt Comptroller of Cheong Lo in the Chili Province. All the local officials called on His Excellency and offered their congratulations.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

A private meeting was held at the Kwong Chai Hospital by the gentry of the nine charitable institutions (Viceroy Shun's clique of Directors of the Yuet-Hin Railway Company). Lo Kwai Wai was elected to preside as chairman. The following resolutions were passed and enthusiastically adopted:

(1) Telegrams to be sent to H.E. Chang Chih-tung, Governor Pong Hungshu and the Bureau of Posts and Communications to the effect that the accounts of the railway company had been audited and found satisfactory. It having been discovered that Yeong Sai-Ngam and Chan Kang-Yu are foreign subjects, it was decided to ignore them as shareholders of the company. Their idea is to invest all the railway funds in foreign banks and to engage lawyers to interfere in the matter. Should those foreign banks fail, what shall we do? It is plain that their intention is to borrow some foreigner's name and grasp all the money. It is through

our integrity and power that the company was floated and now they are endeavouring to undo what was done by us. This has agitated the feelings of the general public.

(2) To elect 10 persons who will sign a petition which will be presented to Viceroy Chou Fu and if any of the signatories were to be arrested and imprisoned a sum of \$6 will be paid to his or their family as maintenance allowance. These funds will be subscribed by the guild to which he belongs. If any one of the 10 persons be arrested, all the others will join together in issuing expresses to close all the gates in the city and to get the representatives of all the guilds to proceed to the yamen where the person is detained.

(3) To issue a notification stating that the railway company decided to ignore Yeung Sai Ngam and Chan Kang Yu as shareholders of the company. The employees of the Kwong Chai Hospital will be authorized to post these notifications in the city and if any of them should be arrested by the police and imprisoned a sum of \$15 will be paid to the family as maintenance allowance. The representatives will all proceed to the yamen and will ask the officials if they have accommodation to imprison all the people. We will uphold our positions with an iron hand and resist to the end. With regard to the expenses for cabling we will now all subscribe to it.

(4) To boycott some of the local newspapers as we now boycott all American goods. We will all post notices at our doors giving the names of those newspapers which we will boycott. We have information there follows a list of people said to have bribed the mounts being stated, and of the officials blamed. We should not deter or fear in taking proceedings against those officials.

(5) To boycott the police. The police are supported by the merchants of the 72 guilds. We will refuse to permit them to patrol our streets and will refuse to pay police tax. Henceforth we will engage soldiers to protect us.

THE "CRAIK CHILDREN'S FUND."

We publish by request of Mr. R. H. Baxter, the Hon. Sec. of the Kowloon Dock Reading Club, the following further list of subscribers to this fund:—Amount previously acknowledged—\$1,666.00. Messrs. T. Skinner \$25, H. Smith \$50, W. J. Rattay \$25, T. Neves \$10, Jas. McGlashan \$10, Joseph Clelland \$10, Jas. E. Hansen \$5, A. Nicholson \$10, D. Harvey \$10, J. Fischer \$5, A. Millar \$2, J. Ramsay \$5, D. Neilson \$10, W. Ramsay \$20, W. G. Humphreys & Co. \$50, Chas. A. Gupp & Co. \$25, Robert Hunter \$5, J. Gillespie \$5, British Antifouling Co., Ltd., London, per Messrs. Meyer & Co. \$5, F. Schwarzkopf \$50, Mr. and Mrs. Pithie \$50, G. S. Webb \$5, A. G. Gordon \$50, D. Purvis \$5, Lane, Crawford & Co. \$100, W. Nicholson \$25, W. Watson \$10, Ah Chee \$10, Ah Kee \$10, Ah Chung \$10, Ma Wong \$5, Ah Foo \$5, Ah Soo \$1, Hung Kwong \$1, Taek Joo Hing \$5, Ah Wai \$5, Ah Man \$2, Ma Shenug \$5, Ma Pans \$10, Ah Kee \$5, Ah Fook \$2, Hum Hai \$1, Kwong Hing \$2, Tai Lee \$2, F. S. \$1, Sing Lee \$2, Ah Hing \$5, Ah Sheung \$5, Chan Sing \$5, Henug Man \$20, Ah Choi \$10, Ah Hop \$5, Ah Ngan \$3, Lam Ping \$3, Ling Chu \$1, Leung Kum \$1, Ah Chung \$5, Ah Youne \$5, Kah Yuan \$5, Ah Wore \$2, Ah Hoi \$5, Ah Sing \$5, Heong Fat \$5, J. Hand \$0, R. S. \$100, Total \$1,586.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 3rd January, 1907.

Present:—Messrs F. B. Marshall (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra F. B. Gardiner, L. I. Thomas, W. H. Wallace, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. The Estimates for 1907, as presented, are passed.

3. The Accounts for 1906 are read and passed.

4. The Secretary is instructed to publish the usual notices regarding "Annual Meeting", List of Ratepayers, "Notice calling for names of gentlemen for 1907 Council," and to forward a letter to the Senior Consul requesting him to call the annual meeting of ratepayers.

5. Applications for twelve debentures were considered and received an allotment in full.

6. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting.

SUMMONSES.

Breach of Municipal Regulations, 1. Debt. 2. SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Cutting and wounding, 8.

(Signed) F. B. MARSHALL
Chairman.

By order,

C. BERKELEY MITCHELL
Secretary K. M. C.

THE SCOTCH CONCERT.

The programme of the Scotch concert held in St. George's Hall, City Hall, on Jan. 25th, in celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of Burns, was as under.

PART I.

Band of the 3rd Batt.
Middlesex Regt. "Scotch Melley," Arranged by Carallini.

Song—"My Nannie's Awa," Words by Burns.
Mr. R. H. Baxter.

Song—"Callin' Herin'," Words by Baroness Nairne. Music by Neil Gow.
Mr. G. H. Edwards.

Song—"Willie's Gane to Melville Castle," Allegretto. Arr. by W. H. Maxfield, Mus. Bac.
Mr. G. Balloch.

Violin Solo "Larghetto and Allegro," Giuseppe Tattini (1692-1770).
Mr. Jokl.

Song—"Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon," Words by Burns.
Mrs. David Wood.

Recitation—"Our Christmas Goose,"
Mr. R. Sutherland.

Song—"Scots Wha Hae," Words by Robert Burns.
Mrs. A. G. Gordon.

PART II.

Band of the 3rd Batt.
Middlesex Regt. "Reminiscences of Scotland," Words by Godfrey.

Trio—"O, Willie Brew'd a Peck o' Malt," Words by Burns. Music by William Shork.
Messrs L. Broughall, R. H. Baxter and J. C. Gow.

Song—"And ye shall Walk in Silk Attire," Words by Susanna Blamire.
Arr. by Sir G. A. Macfarren.

Violin Solo "Hungarian Dance," Brahms-Joachim.
Mr. Jokl.

Song—"Bonnie Mary of Argyll," Words by C. Jeffries. Music by S. Neilson.
Mrs. G. H. Edwards.

Song—"Hooch Aye,"
Mr. R. Sutherland.

Song—"My Ain Bolk," Words by Wilford Mills.
Music by Laura G. Lemon.

Song—"Sound The Fiddle," Words by Mr. Norman Macleod, Senior. Traditional Melody arranged by Malcolm Lawson.
Mr. G. Balloch.

Song—"Auld Lang Syne," Words by Burns.
Audience requested to join in the chorus.
E. J. Chapman, Accompanist.

COMMERCIAL.

KOBE REPORT.

The Kobe Market Report published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade, and dated (Kobe) Hio, 15th January, 1907, has the following:

IMPORTS.

Cotton—American.—Some changes have taken place since our last report, and "forward" Middling is quoted at Yen 35. Transactions, however, have been comparatively small. The quotation for "spot" cargo is still maintained at Yen 34.25. Indian.—The fluctuations of the American market are preventing any large transactions from being effected. "Spot" cargo has been moving on a small scale. Quotations are—Best Broach, Yen 29.25 to Yen 29.50; Akola Khamgum (new) Yen 21 to 24.25; Bengal (new), Yen 23. Chinese.—There is no change to report. Best quality is quoted at Yen 29.25, and Common at Yen 25. Shirtings.—A little inquiry and a few small orders have been booked. Cotton Goods and

Fancies.—Rather more inquiry, resulting in a moderate business. Worsteds and Woollens.—A small volume of business has been transacted in the interval. Window Glass.—Home prices having receded somewhat after considerable forward business had been put through, buyers have since held aloof. Metals.—There is a marked improvement in sympathy with the home markets, but fresh business is restricted owing to the high replacing cost. Sugar—Beet.—Owing to reduced stocks values have rallied somewhat. German is now quoted Yen 152.0. Cane.—Raw.—The market remains very dull and there is no business to report. Osaka Refined.—At the auction held at Osaka on the 7th January, 2,730 bags changed hands at figures which showed a decline of from 10 to 13 sen per picul. Rice.—A sudden demand has sprung up and stocks have changed hands at quotations.

EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—Market firm with good inquiry, but no stocks obtainable, and no transaction reported. Quotation.—Whale Yen 9.75; Shark Yen 8.50. Sardine Yen 8.59. Copper.—Some business done last week in G. M. B. Brands at Yen 60.25 per 100 kin. Owing to higher quotations from London there is good inquiry, and tendency of the market is strong. Rice.—The market experienced a sudden rise making export business all the more difficult. Cotton Yarn.—Small business. Vegetable Wax.—Market firm at quotation for local demand only, prices having out-reached shipper ideas. No transactions are reported with the exception of a small parcel of 100 cases at Yen 32 resold. Matting.—Since the majority of exporters took concerted action in agreeing not to pay over certain prices for particular grades, a decided improvement has been apparent, so much so that manufacturers have begun to deliver goods against contract. In spite of this the market is very firm. Straw Braid.—Prices have been well maintained owing to the brisk demand for certain descriptions in strong favour. Chip Braid.—Somewhat easier, due no doubt to the fact that the long period of steadily advancing quotations the trade has experienced this season has forced the attention of consumers elsewhere with a resultant falling-off of inquiry on this market.

SILK.

CANTON 25th January, 1907.—Silk Market.—During the earlier part of the fortnight there was a fair amount of business at prices above our quotations; but for the last few days this movement has been subsiding, and prices have declined except for 11/13 Fils, which are still the favourite size in all grades. At the close European buyers show little enthusiasm, though holders are ready to entertain reasonable concessions. The American market rules quieter at weak prices. The stock of S. R. 14/16 is very small, especially in "Extra B." Waste Market.—The lower exchange has brought buyers nearer to the firm level established by holders, and a large business has resulted, mostly in "Extra Selected" and "Market Extra," at or about our quotations. "Pierced Cocoons" 76 per cent. remeant have fetched \$100. The Chinese dealers do not seem disposed to give way at present pretending that the foreign markets must soon come up to their level owing to the small stocks and decreased receipts. Stock of silk in Canton: 600 bales.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, January 24th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.
Malwa New\$800 to — per picul.
Malwa Old\$860 to — do.
Malwa Older\$920 to — do.
Malwa Very Old\$960 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality.....\$850 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine.....\$890 to — do.
Patna New\$890 to — per chest.
Patna Old to — do.
Benares New\$812; to — do.
Benares Old to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 25th January, state that 18 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 60,200 tons of coal. Since January 11th, 16 steamers have arrived with a total of 52,200 tons of coal. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$14.00 to 15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian.....\$10.00 to \$11.00 ex-ship, quiet.
Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 nominal.
Yubari Lump.....\$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump.....\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened.....\$6.00 to \$7.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump.....\$7.75 to \$8.50 steady.
Bengal.....\$9.00 to \$9.50 nominal.

RAW COTTON.

Hongkong, 25th January.—Moderate business at almost previous rates. Stock about 700 bales.
 Bombay.....\$17.50 to \$20.50 per pcl.
 Bengal (New), Rangoon
 and Dacca 22.00 to 22.50 "
 Shanghai and Japanese 24.50 to 26.00 "
 Tungchow and Ningpo 24.50 to 26.00 "
 Reported sales, 150 bags.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 25th January, states:—A disappointing fortnight has been experienced in this market as with the near approach of the China New Year a demand from the country was confidently expected. This, however, may occur within the next fortnight, failing which importers may make up their minds for a dull and quiet market until business is resumed after the holidays. Meanwhile there has been more doing locally than during the previous two weeks, and sales to the extent of nearly 6,000 bales are reported, prices remaining with little alteration as those last given. The movement appears to be entirely speculative as at the moment there is nothing doing in the country, but the outlook warrants the action of the dealers. The demand has as usual run upon special favourite tickets of No. 10s which form the bulk of the settlements. Receipts for the fortnight are practically nil, and being far exceeded by the off-takes our estimate of stocks shows a further satisfactory falling off.

Sales during the fortnight aggregate 5,989 bales, arrivals amount to 1,518, stocks estimated at 126,000, and uncleared goods in second hands 25,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—No business is reported.

Japanese Yarn.—There has been nothing doing in these spinnings. The stream of shipments is now being diverted Northwards where for some time past it has been gradually but surely replacing Bombay No. 16s and No. 20s.

Raw Cotton.—Sales reported during the fortnight are some 400 bales Old Bengals at \$17½ and 70 bales New at \$20½. In China kinds 59 bales Shanghai are reported to have changed hands at \$23½. Quotations are Indian \$17 to \$20½, and China \$22 to \$24.

Exchange on India, after some fluctuations, closes weak to-day at Rs. 165½ for T/T, and Rs. 165½ for Post. On Shanghai Tls. 73 and Japan 109½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 12th instant, viz:—Indian:—Good demand with willing sellers despite a falling exchange. Total sales about 14,000 bales, No. 10s and No. 20s forming over three-fourths of the settlements with a small decline of half to one Tael. Unsold stock estimated at 105,000 bales.

Japanese:—In good enquiry, sales amounting to about 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 86 to 95 for No. 16s, and Tls. 98½ to 102 for No. 20s. Close strong.

Local:—About 1,600 bales No. 10s and 14s are reported sold at Tls. 76 and Tls. 77 to Tls. 88 respectively.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 17th January, 1907, states:—There is little or nothing to report in the way of specific sales on the market from stock. There continues to be a moderate business doing to arrive in goods that had been previously contracted for in Manchester, but actual fresh business is out of the question at the moment in most makes, and more and more distant delivery is required by manufacturers. To-day it is reported the dealers have much better advices from Newchwang, and the merchants for that market are endeavouring to buy. The enquiry, so far, is almost entirely for American makes, chiefly 3-yards Sheetings and Jeans, and holders are expecting to get much better terms than have been current for a considerable time. Although there is not any very definite or reliable news concerning Manchuria the authorities are not standing still in the matter, and it is reported fresh trading centres are being opened and the Native Custom-houses established on the borders. There is fair promise, therefore, that by April when the Russian and Japanese military have to vacate the country according to their treaty, it will be in a position to resume trade with all confidence and vigour. The Manchester market keeps strong with a brisk all-round enquiry. Manufacturers are again becoming crowded with orders, and more distant delivery is required. We know some business is being done for this market but for the most part above current rates. Spot Cotton, which can have

but little influence on the Manchester market, is down to 5.79d. in Liverpool for Mid. American and 10½d. for Egyptian. The forward quotations in New York have also declined considerably, but we have not been able to get the definite prices. The market for domestics is very strong and the only buying for China is by some Tientsin importers, although better terms can be obtained for goods on this market. There is still fair demand for Indian Yarns for the River Ports and Szechuen and a moderate business is reported. Prices are inclined to be irregular, as, though first hand holders are firm, there is a desire on the part of native holders to realise. Japanese spinnings are firm, but there is not much strength with the local production. Native Cotton keeps steady to firm, suppliers from the country feeding the market very judiciously. Grey Shirtings.—The business reported this week is not sufficiently important to require separate sub-headings, in fact beyond the auctions the only sale from first hands that is mentioned is a small lot of 10-lbs. Bicycle chop at Tls. 3.10. We understand some transactions have taken place in 8.4-lbs. both from stock and to arrive, but particulars are not obtainable. At the auctions prices have been very irregular; 7-lbs. were about steady 8.4-lbs. fairly steady to firm. 10-lbs. yesterday had a downward tendency, but this morning showed a further advance on last week's prices. The higher weights were fairly steady on the whole, but 13-lbs. 36-inch had a weaker tendency. White Shirtings.—A sale is reported of 5,000 pieces Gold Hat and Peaches at Tls. 4.75 and this is all we hear of from stock. As a whole prices at auction do not show much change, the only feature worth noting being the firmness of better marks. T-Cloths and Jeans.—The tendency was firmer at Auction for both kinds. Drills.—American.—The market is rather quieter, but prices are fairly steady. The only business we hear of from first hands is 8,400 pieces Enoree FF at Tls. 3.57½. The sale reported from New York for the Tientsin market is 800 bales Piedmont B at 10s. 5d. Sheetings.—American.—The enquiry from Newchwang is chiefly for 3 yard makes on the basis of Tls. 385 for Loray A; but as it only showed itself this morning we have not yet received any particulars of what has been done. Fancy Goods.—There has been some movement in common Figured Cotton Lastings, and we have heard of the sale of 350 cases No. 4 quality at Tls. 250, while a few have also been placed to arrive, but at a rather better price than that. The Turkey Red market is being monopolised by the auctions fairly steady prices being realised this week. At the auction this morning Fast Black Cotton Italians have not shown up very well on the whole the tendency being weaker in most of the chops sold.

EXCHANGE

FRIDAY, Jan. 25th.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer..... | 2/2½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/2½ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight..... | 2/2½ |
| Bank Bills at 4 months' sight | 2/4½ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/3½ |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/3½ | |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 291½ |
| Credits 4 months' sight | 286 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 229 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 544 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 554 |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 165½ |
| Bank, on demand | 165½ |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 165½ |
| Bank, on demand | 165½ |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 73 |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73½ |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 108½ |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 109½ |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 5½ p.p.m. |
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 134½ |
| ON HAI PHONG.—On demand | 1½ p.p.m. |
| ON SAIGON.—On demand | 1 p.p.m. |
| ON BANG OK.—On demand | 63½ |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | \$8.95 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | \$47.20 |
| BAR SILVER, per oz. | 31½ |

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 25th January.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.—The low rates ruling for No. 10s. seen to have induced the dealers to operate on a larger scale; and a fair amount of business has been put through at almost previous rates. The rates for other counts have further receded about \$2, and resulted in a small business. Quotations are:—No. 10s. at \$72 to \$95; No. 16s. at \$98 to \$125; and No. 20s. at \$100 to \$139. Arrivals 16,000 bales; Sales 8,000 bales; Shipments 15,000 bales; Bargains 62,000 bales. Unsold stock 79,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...\$80.00 to \$125.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...135.00 to 140.00
 " 22 to 24, ...140.00 to 145.00
 " 28 to 32, ...150.00 to 155.00
 " 38 to 42, ...160.00 to 165.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Market flat. Nothing doing.

| | per piece |
|---|------------------|
| Grey Shirtings—7 lbs. | \$2.40 to \$2.50 |
| 8.4 lbs. | 3.00 to 3.70 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 4.00 to 4.80 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | 2.70 to 2.90 |
| 58 to 60 " | 3.00 to 3.20 |
| 64 to 66 " | 3.25 to 3.30 |
| Fine 5.50 | to 7.60 |
| Book-folds 5.00 | to 7.75 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... | 0.60 to 1.50 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y) | 2.00 to 2.20 |
| 7lbs. 32 " | 2.25 to 2.75 |
| 6lbs. 32 " (Mexs) | 2.20 to 2.35 |
| 7lbs. 32 " | 2.40 to 3.05 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in. | 3.00 to 3.70 |
| Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ " to 14 lbs. | 4.50 to 7.25 |

FANCY COTTON—Small sales. Market quiet.

| | per piece |
|--|------------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. | \$1.50 to \$3.65 |

| | per yard |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Brocades—Dyed | \$0.12 to \$0.15 |
| Chintzes—Assorted | 0.07 to 0.25 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in., | 0.20 to 0.40 |
| Velveteens—18 in., | 0.18 to 0.21 |

| | per doz. |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk | \$0.45 to \$0.95 |

WOOLLENS—Market sick. Small sales.

| | per yard |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops..... | \$0.65 to 2.00 |
| German, | 1.20 to 2.50 |
| Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ... | 3.50 to 6.00 |

| | per piece |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. | \$6.5 to \$8.75 |
| Assorted..... | 6.65 to 8.90 |
| Camlets—Assorted..... | 11.00 to 31.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } | 13.00 to 18.50 |
| Assorted } | |

| | per lb. |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Blankets—7 to 11 lbs. | \$0.60 to \$0.78 |

METALS—

| | per picul |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Iron—Nail Rod | \$4.25 |
| Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.).... | 4.20 |
| Swedish Bar | 4.30 |
| Small Round Rod | 4.80 |
| Hoop ½ to 1½ in. | 5.60 |
| Wire, 16/25 oz. | 9.80 |
| Wire Rope, Old..... | 3.00 |
| Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop ... | 11.10 |
| Australian | 11.10 |
| Yellow Metal—Munts 14/28 oz. | 43.50 |
| Vivian's, 16/32 oz., | 43.50 |
| Elliot's, 16/28 oz..... | 43.50 |
| Tin, | 99.00 |

| | per box |
|-------------------|---------|
| Tin-Plates, | \$6.90 |

| | per picul |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Quicksilver, | \$111.00 |

| | per box. |
|----------------------|----------|
| Window Plates, | \$3.75 |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per M. M. steamer *Salasie*, sailed on 22nd Jan. For *Marveilles*:—133 bales raw silk, 293 bales waste silk, 29 cases silk piece goods, 13 cases feathers, 36 packages human hair, 20 packages tea, 106 cases palm leaf fans, 6 cases curios, 23 cases ylang ylang oil, 14 cases hats, 23 packages sundries. For *Lyons*:—106 bales raw silk.

HANKOW, 16th Jan., 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| Cowhides, Best Selected..... | Tls. 36.00 |
| Do. Seconds..... | 32.00 |
| Buffalo Hides, Best Selected..... | 22.00 |
| Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour .. | 60.00 |
| Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each | 7.00 |
| White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi..... | 10.00 |
| White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu .. | 9.80 |
| Green China Grass, Szechuen..... | 11.25 |
| Jute..... | 5.50 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow..... | 9.00 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Machang | 9.50 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu | 9.00 |
| Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu..... | 11.50 |
| Animal Tallow..... | 9.50 |
| Gallnuts, usual shape..... | 14.60 |
| Do. Plum do..... | 16.25 |
| Tobacco, Tingchow..... | 0.50 |
| Do. Wongkong..... | 9.00 |
| Turmeric..... | 5.25 |
| Sesamum Seed..... | 5.30 |
| Sesamum Seed Oil..... | 11.00 |
| Wood Oil..... | 8.60 |

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th January, 1907.—The improvements in rates reported in our last have been fairly well maintained, and although a few of the leading stocks show a slight decline at time of closing, others have improved, and the balance for the week shows no material change. Exchange on London T/T 2/2½, on Shanghai 73.

BANKS.—A few further sales of Hongkong and Shanghai were made during the early part of the week at \$950, and sales in Shanghai are reported at \$1,000. Later, however, the local rate weakened in sympathy with a fall on the London market to £108. 10s., and some small sales were effected at \$940, at which the market closes with sellers. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$780 with sales, and close with buyers. Yangtszes have been placed at \$157½. Cantons have receded to \$295 without sales. North Chinas unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found buyers at \$375, closing quiet at that rate. Chinas continue in demand at \$95, but we have no business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain steady at \$30 with small sales. Indos have ruled practically nominal at \$87. Star Ferries (old) have been placed at \$30 and \$29, closing steady at quotation. Shell Transports with a demand and no supply, have improved to 70s. ex the div. of 1s. paid in London on the 1st January. Douglases and China-Manilas remain neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled in better demand, and after small sales at \$128 can probably be placed at \$130. Luzons remain unchanged.

MINING.—With the exception of a few small sales of Baubs at \$8½, we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, notwithstanding the publication of a very fair report, have ruled weak, and with sellers at \$148 and no buyers the rate gradually fell to \$145 sellers with no sales to report. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet at \$96 with sellers and no sales. New Amoy Docks have declined to \$12, and close with buyers at that rate, after some sales. Shanghai Docks have improved in the north, and after sales at Tls. 107 close with buyers at Tls. 108½. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have ruled steady at Tls. 235 ex new issue, and Tls. 225 for the new issue.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue to rule firm and the rate has improved to \$121 without bringing out any more sellers. West Points have been in a small demand and the rate has improved to \$52½ with no sales to report. Hotels have been enquired for at \$115 without leading to business. Humphreys, after sales at \$11.80, \$11.90 and \$12, close nominally at the last rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Several important improvements have taken place in the rates for the Northern Mills. Ews have gone up to 74, Internationals to 62, Laou Kung Mows to

130, and Soy Chees to 375. Hongkongs remain quiet and without business at \$11½. MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have found further buyers at \$9½. Cements at \$21 and \$21½. Electrics at \$16 and Ropes at \$21, the same rate as last week. Ices have improved to \$250 with buyers, after sales at \$240. Steam Water Boats have been placed at the reduced rate of \$6½, and Powells at \$7½.

Quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Alhambra..... | \$200 | \$120 |
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & S'hai..... | \$125 | \$940, sales & sel. London, £108.10 |
| National B. of China A. Shares..... | 26 | \$49, buyers |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A..... | 12s. 6d. | \$7, sellers |
| China-Borneo Co..... | \$12 | \$10, sellers |
| China Light & P. Co..... | \$10 | \$9½, sales & sellers |
| China Provident..... | \$10 | \$9½, sales |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo..... | Tls. 50 | Tls. 74 |
| Hongkong..... | \$10 | \$11½ |
| International..... | Tls. 75 | Tls. 62 |
| Laou Kung Mow..... | Tls. 100 | Tls. 130 |
| Soychee..... | Tls. 500 | Tls. 375 |
| Dairy Farm..... | \$6 | \$16½ |
| Docks & Wharves— | | |
| H. & K. Wharf & G..... | \$50 | \$196, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock..... | \$50 | \$145, sellers |
| New Amoy Dock..... | \$6½ | \$12, sales & buy. |
| Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd..... | Tls. 100 | Tls. 108½, buyers |
| S'hai & H. Wharf..... | 100 | Tls. 235, x. n. issue Tls. 225, n. issue |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo..... | \$25 | \$21, sellers |
| G. Island Cement..... | \$10 | \$21½, sellers |
| Hongkong & C. Gas..... | \$10 | \$175, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric..... | \$100 | \$16 |
| H. H. L. Tramways..... | \$50 | \$215 |
| Hongkong Hotel Co..... | \$25 | \$115, buyers |
| Hongkong Ice Co..... | \$25 | \$250, buyers |
| Hongkong Rope Co..... | \$10 | \$21, sales & sellers |
| H'kong S. Waterboat..... | \$10 | \$6½, sales |
| Insurances— | | |
| Canton..... | \$50 | \$295, sellers |
| China Fire..... | \$20 | \$95, buyers |
| China Traders..... | \$25 | \$90 |
| Hongkong Fire..... | \$50 | \$375, sales |
| North China..... | 25 | Tls. 80 |
| Union..... | \$100 | \$780, buyers |
| Yangtsze..... | \$60 | \$157½, sales |
| Land and Buildings— | | |
| H'kong Land Invest..... | \$100 | \$111, sales |
| Humphrey's Estate..... | \$10 | \$12, sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B..... | \$30 | \$38½, buyers |
| Shanghai Land..... | Tls. 50 | Tls. 103 |
| West Point Building..... | Tls. 25 | Tls. 62½, n. issue \$52½, buyers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages..... | For 250 | \$450, nominal |
| Baubs..... | 18 10 | \$9, sellers |
| Philippine Co..... | \$10 | 5 |
| Refineries— | | |
| China Sugar..... | \$100 | \$130 |
| Luzon Sugar..... | \$100 | \$21, sellers |
| Steamship Companies— | | |
| China and Manila..... | \$25 | \$22, sellers |
| Douglas Steamship..... | \$50 | \$36, sellers |
| H. Canton & M..... | \$15 | \$30, sales |
| Indo China S. N. Co..... | \$10 | \$87 |
| Shell Transport Co..... | \$1 | 30, ex div. |
| Star Ferry..... | \$10 | \$29, sales |
| Do. New..... | \$5 | \$20, sellers |
| South China M. Post..... | \$25 | \$24 |
| Steam Laundry Co..... | \$5 | \$5½ |
| Stores & Dispensaries— | | |
| Campbell, M. & Co..... | \$10 | \$30, sellers |
| Powell & Co., Wm..... | \$10 | \$7½, sales |
| Watkins..... | \$10 | \$250 |
| Watson & Co., A. S..... | \$10 | \$12 |
| United Asbestos..... | \$4 | \$10, buyers |
| Do. Founders..... | \$10 | \$150 |

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending January 17, 1907, states:—The market for all the leading stocks has remained steady during the week. A slight improvement has to be recorded in the price of Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd. Shares, and Sumatras have had a large rise; shares are still wanted at increasing rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. On January 16th the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank published the results of their half year, which were as usual exceedingly good. Subject to audit, a dividend of £1.15s.0d. is to be paid, a bonus of £1 to be given in addition to dividend, added to Silver reserve \$7½ lacs, and carried forward to next year \$17 lacs. It was also made public that the Directors have approached the Hongkong Government in order to provide for an increase of capital. They intend to recommend at an Extraordinary General Meeting the creation of 40,000 new shares at \$125, to be issued to the Shareholders at the price of £30 each, in the proportion of one new share to two old. This news at once sent the price of shares up to \$880 buyers and no sellers, and at the close \$900 was offering for odd lots of one share without success. The London price at the same time rose to £102.10s. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 3/0½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported, but Unions and Yangtszes are wanted at quotations. No shares offering. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Business is reported at Tls. 81 cash, Tls. 62½, Tls. 63, Tls. 63½, and Tls. 63½. March, Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. There is still a demand for these shares and none are obtainable at offers of Tls. 56. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. A decided improvement took place in the price of these shares during the week. Business was reported at Tls. 103, Tls. 105 and Tls. 107½ January. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Business is reported at Tls. 245 cash and January for the old shares cum new; Tls. 252½, Tls. 255 March, and Tls. 255 April. The quotation in each case including the new issue. The nominal quotation for the old shares ex new is Tls. 236, and for the new alone Tls. 226. Sugars.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment. Business was reported in the new shares at Tls. 62½, but the Market is easier. The old shares are quoted at Tls. 102. Mining.—Kaipings. Several small lots changed hands at Tls. 11, but this price would not have been obtainable for a large number. Industrial.—A fair business has been done in all Cotton Mill shares at steady rates. Ews are quoted Tls. 70 January, and Tls. 71 March. Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 106 cash and Tls. 106 March. International Cottons at Tls. 63 March. A fair business has been done in Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co. Shares at Tls. 120 and there are more shares offering at this rate. Shanghai Gas Co. The new shares have changed hands at Tls. 107½, which would make the prices of the old shares about Tls. 111. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. The price of this stock has improved a little during the week, business being reported at Tls. 247½, Tls. 252½ for March, closing strong at the latter quotation. Sumatras. A decided improvement has taken place in the price of this stock, business being done at Tls. 95, Tls. 100 and Tls. 105 cash. Tls. 100 and Tls. 107½ for March. The market closed with buyers. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies have changed hands at Tls. 15, Astor House Hotel Co. at \$29, and Weeks & Co., Ltd. at \$21. Loans & Debentures.—No business reported.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 17th January, 1907, states:—There is very little cargo offering on our Homeward Freight Market to Europe, but the "rush" mentioned in our last still keeps up for New York via the Canal, and all the boats are fully engaged up to China New Year, by which time, however, we think that the balance of this season's tea will have gone forward, and space should not be difficult to secure in the boats to follow. Coastwise.—There is absolutely nothing doing on the coast and the list of steamers laid-up in port grows steadily longer with no prospect of its diminishing until the Northern Ports open again early in March.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 48/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to \$1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

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